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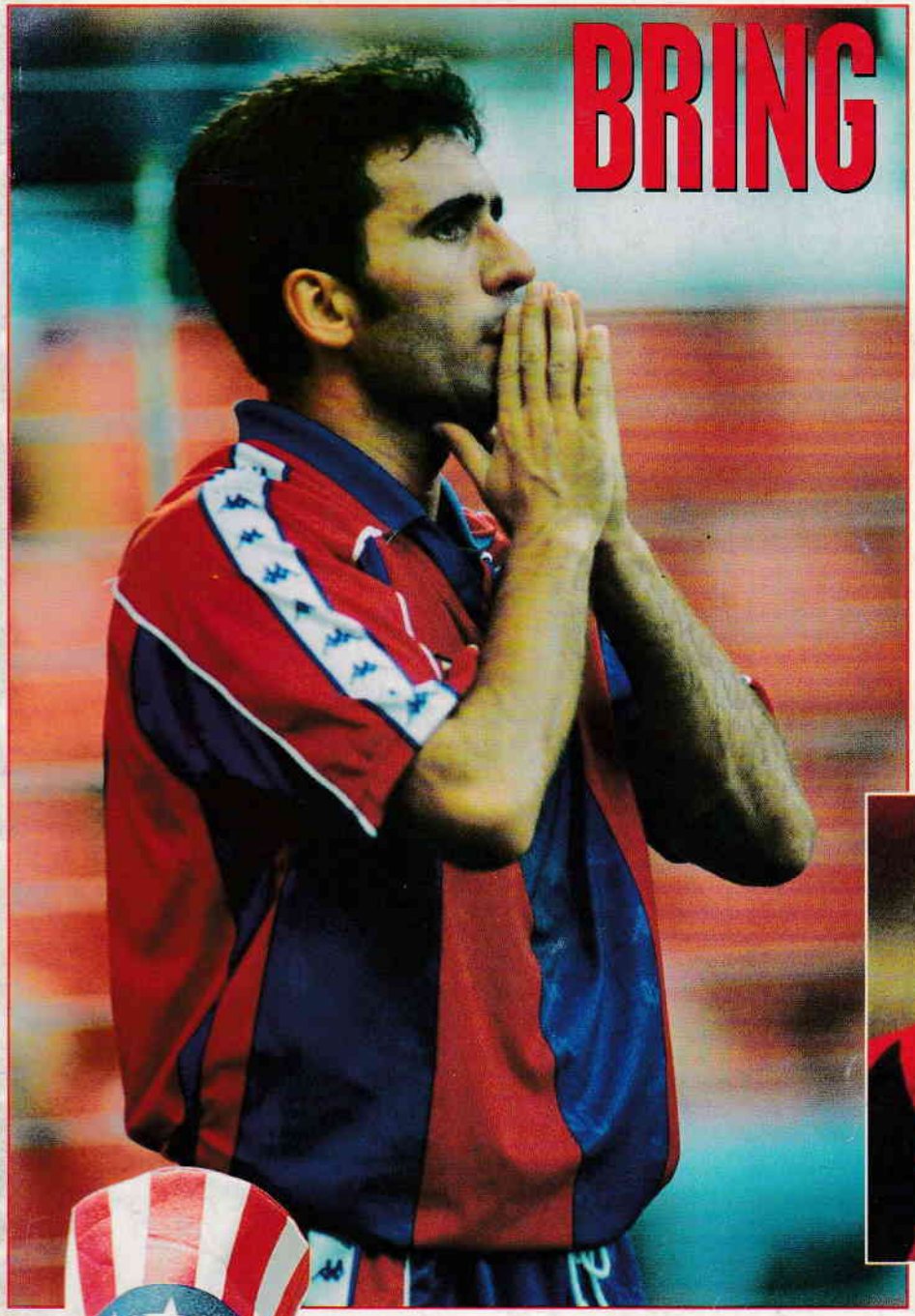

BRING ON UNITED

BARCELONA'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CHALLENGE

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THE LIFE OF BRYAN

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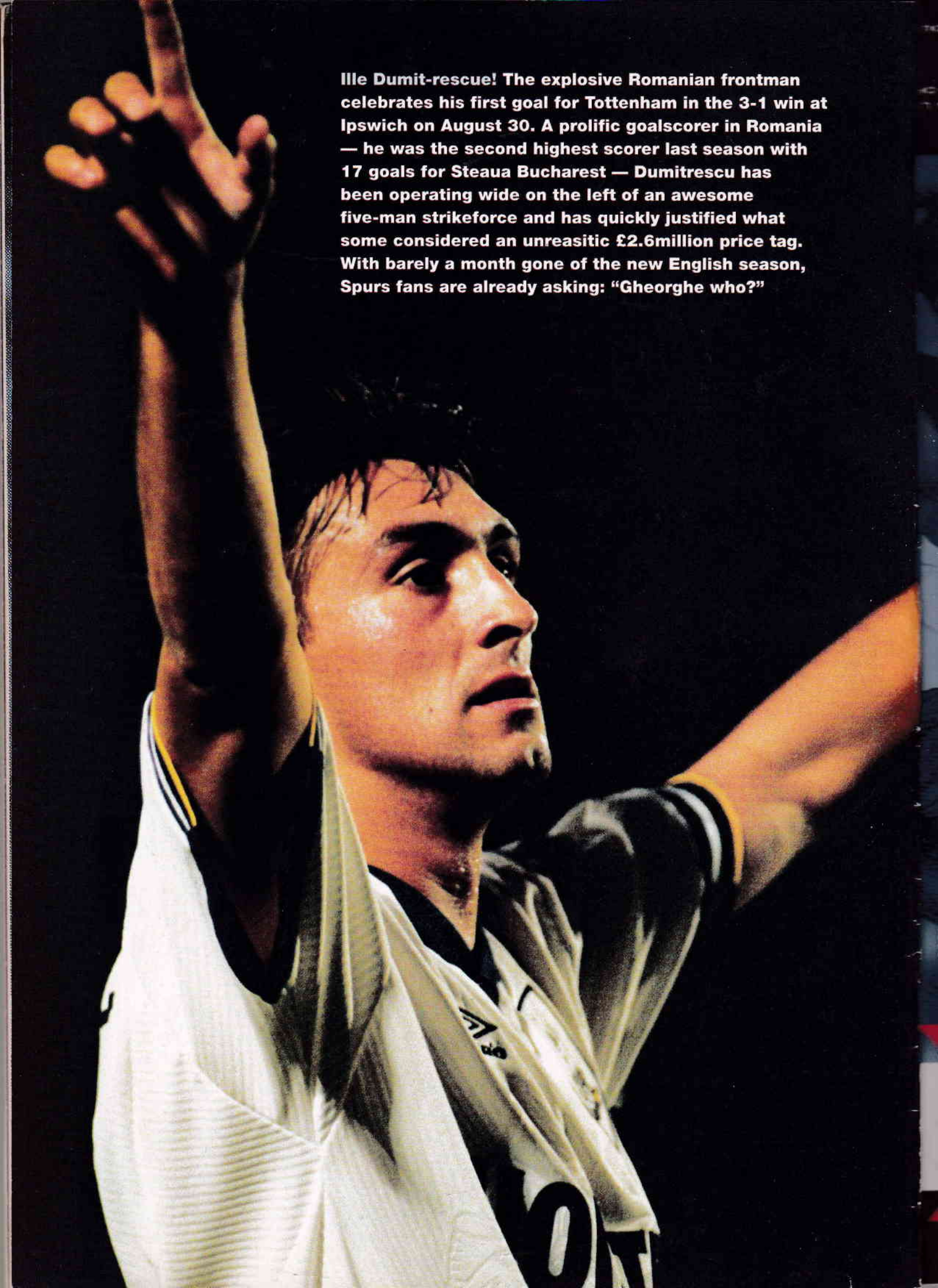
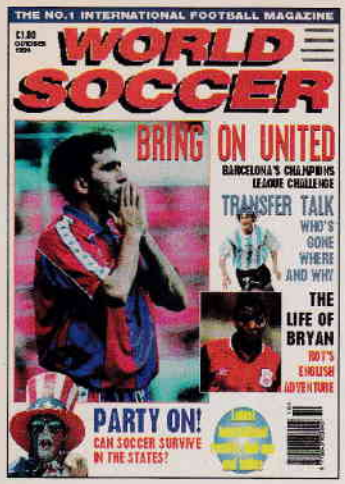


Ille Dumit-rescue! The explosive Romanian frontman celebrates his first goal for Tottenham in the 3-1 win at Ipswich on August 30. A prolific goalscorer in Romania — he was the second highest scorer last season with 17 goals for Steaua Bucharest — Dumitrescu has been operating wide on the left of an awesome five-man strikeforce and has quickly justified what some considered an unreasitic £2.6million price tag. With barely a month gone of the new English season, Spurs fans are already asking: "Gheorghe who?"



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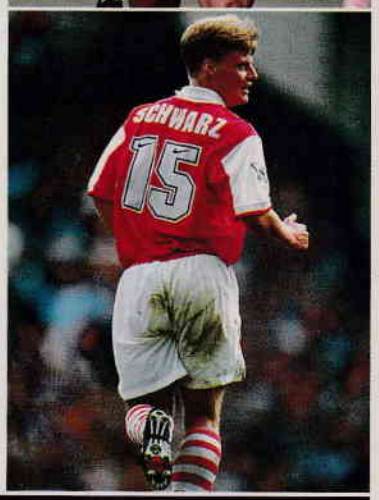

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Barcelona v Manchester United . . . two potentially great Champions League clashes. **GRAHAM TURNER** sounds out the situation

Busi keeps busy

Barca's comeback keeper could be the man to deny Man United success in the Champions League

JUST over a decade ago Ron Atkinson's Manchester United, with a certain Mark Hughes making his debut in the starting line-up and an inexperienced Graeme Hogg in the centre of the defence for the injured Gordon McQueen, produced a creditable performance in the Nou Camp. Until the last minute.

Then Barcelona's "Chechu" Rojo hit a superb left-foot volley past Gary Bailey to give Cesar Luis Menotti's side a somewhat flattering but seemingly conclusive 2-0 first-leg victory.

But a fortnight later at Old Trafford, Ray Wilkins, Bryan Robson and Arnold Muhren took a grip in midfield. Diego Maradona was hustled back into action a little too soon after injury. Robson (2) and Frank Stapleton produced the goals and the crowd produced the magic which overturned mighty Barcelona 3-0.

"I had never experienced anything like it," says goalkeeper Javier Urruticoechea, now working as a commentator for Spanish TV. "We had the crowd right on top of us, which we were not used to in Spain, and the atmosphere, I have to admit, just got us rattled."

Bernd Schuster agrees. "United played very well," he says. "We found it very tough in midfield and that put our defence under pressure. Even so, I feel we should have scored an away goal.

"It was one of those matches you feel you could have won with a few more cool heads."

That was in the Cup-winners Cup, and it was in the same competition that the two sides met again seven years later when English club football was re-emerging after the five-year European ban.

In the Rotterdam final Barcelona were, once again, red-hot favourites. They had Johan Cruyff on the bench and no fewer than six players who were on World Cup duty in the US this summer, plus Michael Laudrup.

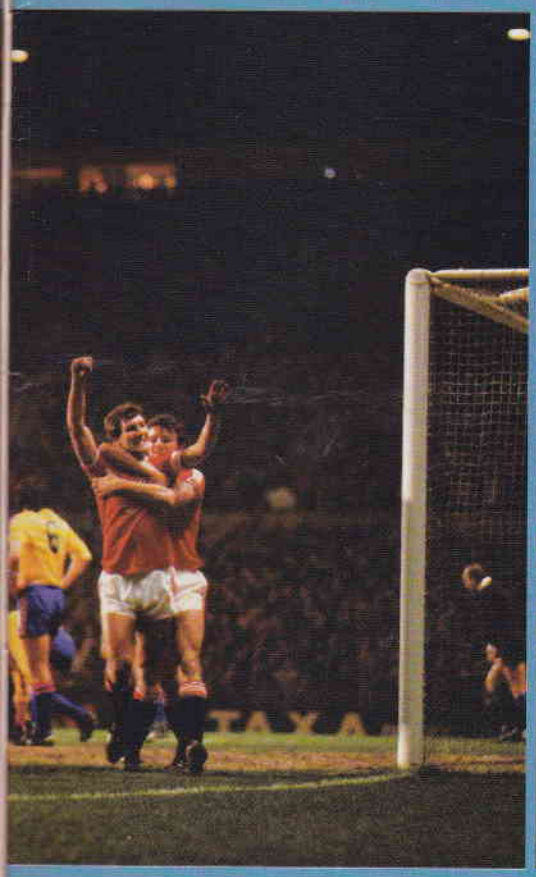
But Mark Hughes, relishing revenge on his former club, struck twice and, although the final 10 minutes after Ronald Koeman's reply seemed an eternity, United held on to win 2-1.

Once again, Cruyff and his players left with the feeling that they had lost a match they could have won. What's more, the scoreline served to underline suspicions that Cruyff's playing style, based on opponents who tried to play their way right through the opposition, was not suitable against a more direct British method.

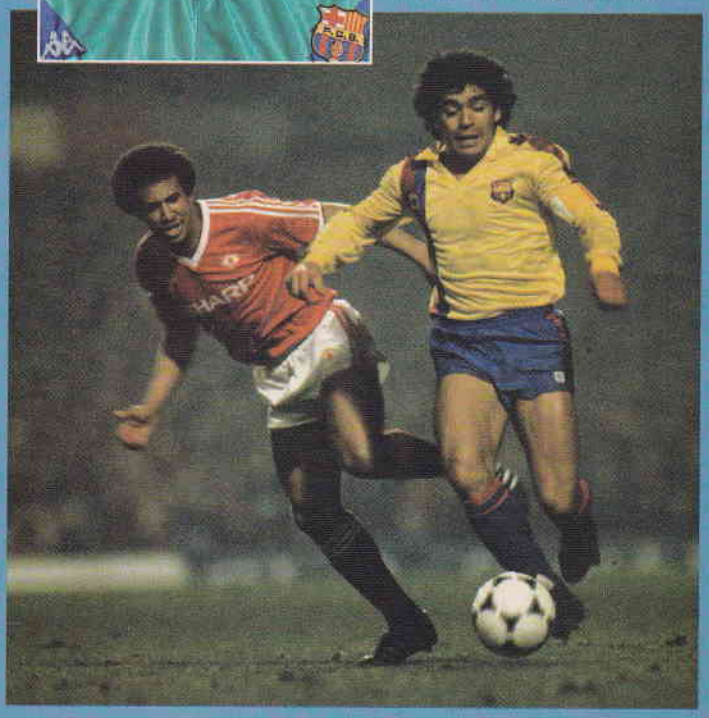
Now comes the supreme test between two clubs who have never met in the Champions Cup. The dates: October 19 at Old Trafford and November 2 in the Nou Camp. Once again, Alex Ferguson versus Johan Cruyff, both having won European trophies with different clubs, and Mark Hughes against his former team.

And, possibly, one other name which might ring a bell. Not Ronald Koeman, Hristo Stoichkov or Gica Hagi but Carlos Busquets.

Remember? He was the goalkeeper who had to be thrown in at the deep end of the Rotterdam final after Andoni Zubizarreta received his



Past battles . . . Mark Hughes in the 1991 Cup-winners Cup Final (above and far left); Bryan Robson scores at Old Trafford in 1984 (above left) while Maradona shrugs off Remi Moses (below). Barca keeper Carlos Busquets (left).



second caution of the competition in the semi-final against Juventus.

At the time, "Busi" was such an unknown quantity that when news of Zubi's ban reached Old Trafford during the semi-final against Legia Warsaw, none of us in the Spanish section of the press box could remember his first name.

The whispers about his contribution to United's goals in Rotterdam suggested he was due for an immediate return to anonymity. The transfer of Juan Carlos Unzue to Sevilla in 1992 at least restored Busquets to the role of understudy to Zubi, but his first-team appearances boil down to five games last autumn after Cruyff and Zubi had fallen out.

When Julen Lopeegi, Spain's third goalkeeper during the World Cup, was signed from Logrones this summer, most critics felt that Busquets would retain his seat on the bench, and the first pre-season game confirmed suspicions.

In a 5-5 draw, Busquets conceded two goals which TV comedy writers would have been proud of. Cruyff, however, was undeterred. "He is a great goalkeeper," he insisted. "What he needs is to play more games."

He duly played more games, while Lopetegi's stock fell sharply after conceding four goals against Valencia in the Nou Camp during the Juan Gamper tournament. Busquets produced a string of fine performances, culminating in La Romareda, Zaragoza, during the first leg of Spain's equivalent of the Charity Shield, the Supercopa.

Last season's Spanish Cup winners tore Barcelona's defence to shreds, but Busquets made 11 crucial saves, allowing his side to clinch the robbery of the century with a 2-0 win.

"I am working hard to secure a first-team place," comments Busquets, "but the boss says Julen and I are on an equal footing and I think he is going to judge us on a day-to-day basis. Personally, I don't think it is a good idea to alternate goalkeepers. One should be given a run of games and then, if he hits a patch of poor form, well, the other one is available.

"For me, the most important thing is to gain the confidence of the public, and the only way you can do that is by playing and playing well.

"Obviously the Champions League is the best possible setting and I know that when it comes to Manchester United, people are going to remind me about Rotterdam. But I have been in this club since I was 14, and I'm 27 now. So I know the ground-rules.

"If I can perform well against United it will kill a lot of ghosts."

Gently does it

Steady start for 'new' Germany

GERMAN coach Berti Vogts — having survived World Cup failure — has resisted the temptation to throw out the nucleus of the team surprisingly defeated by Bulgaria in the quarter-final in Giants Stadium, New Jersey, in July.

His reward was a 1-0 victory over Russia in Moscow in the Germans' first match as former champions. But World Cup men such as Thomas Helmer, Jurgen Kohler, Lothar Matthaus, Thomas Strunz, Mario Basler, substitute Andy Moller, Thomas Hassler, Jurgen Klinsmann, Stefan Kuntz and Karlheinz Riedle — another substitute — were all on duty in Moscow.

It was Kuntz, a World Cup reserve, who struck the decisive goal after 12 minutes against a Russian team sent out for the first time by new boss Oleg Romantsev and reinforced by the return to duty of World Cup refuseniks such as Igor Shalimov, Igor Kolivanov and Andrei Kanchelskis.

Klinsmann, who has had plenty to celebrate with his German Footballer of the Year award and such a spectacular start to the English season with Tottenham, created the all-important goal. His pass from midfield provided Kuntz with the opportunity to escape two defenders before shooting past Russian keeper Stanislav Cherchesov.

Russia's best chance of the half fell to Shalimov but his shot rebounded off the bar. Klinsmann hit the woodwork for Germany in the second half but Vogts said: "It was a very, very lucky victory. In the first half we seemed to control the game, but could not take advantage and let Russia back in.

"At least it was a successful new start after the World Cup and it's something to build on."

In the first "serious" week of European Championship qualifying action, Macedonia and Slovenia gave broad hints that the new nations born of Eastern Europe's fragmentation will not be the pushovers much of footballing western Europe had imagined.

Only a late goal from Denmark's Borussia Dortmund striker Flemming Povlsen, with three minutes to play, kept Macedonia from pulling off the biggest upset since the Faroe Islands defeated Austria four years ago. Danish coach Richard Moller Nielsen said: "We never managed to create enough scoring chances. They were quick, confident and aggressive and I must congratulate them."

Vogts . . . evolution not revolution.

Macedonia looked the sharper team even after being reduced to 10 men when Internazionale striker Darko Pancev was shown the red card for an elbowing offence in the 46th minute. Coach Andon Doncerski said: "We played well considering our inexperience as a team. I wonder what would have happened if Pancev wasn't sent off?"

Defender Mitko Stojkovski, who plays for Red Star Belgrade, put the hosts ahead in the fourth minute in front of 20,000 fans in Skopje. Denmark, of course, became European champions in 1992 only after being called up late for the finals after Yugoslavia were barred following United Nations sanctions. Later Macedonia peacefully seceded in 1991 from the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Federation.

Slovenia were equally unlucky in not pulling off an even bigger upset against World Cup runners-up Italy in Maribor. German referee Heynemann controversially ignored Slovenian protests when a second-half deflection by an Italian defender appeared to cross the goal line before being flapped away by goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca.

Saso Udovic had put Slovenia in the lead in the 13th minute in the Group 4 game with defender Alessandro Costacurta equalising three minutes later. But overall the Slovenians were quicker and the Italians, losers to Brazil on penalties in the World Cup Final in July, were sluggish — starting their European campaign, indeed, much as they began their effort at USA '94.

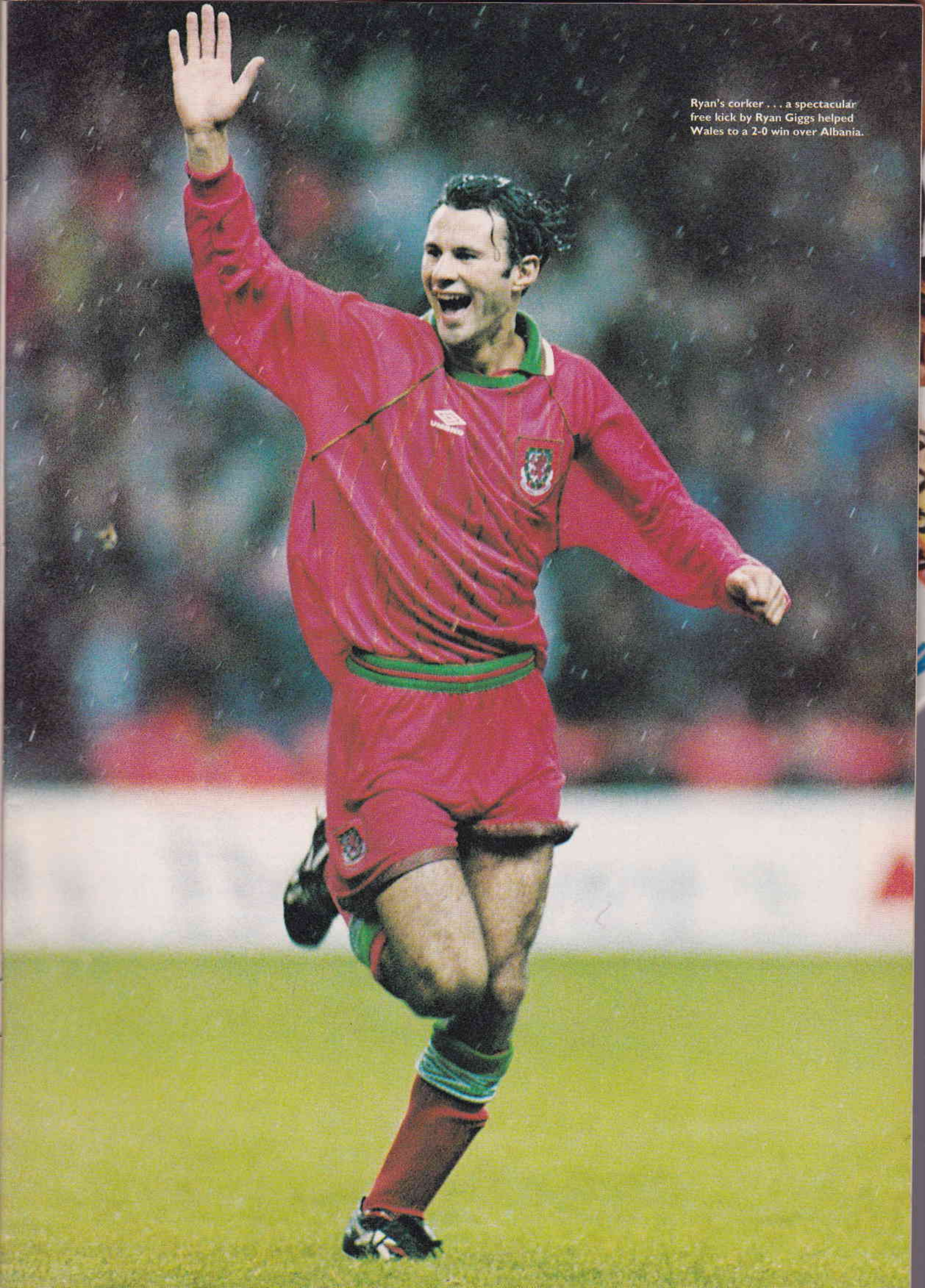
Another surprise in Group 4 — Italy's section — came when Ukraine were beaten 2-0 at home by Lithuania. Ukraine played without eight key players from leading side Kiev Dynamo, who were controversially ignored by coach Oleg Basilevich. Valdas Ivanauskas, from German club Hamburg, was Lithuania's man of the match — dominating midfield and scoring the first goal.

Holland were one of the few established teams to win by the sort of margin expected, with a pair of goals from Ronald De Boer and one apiece from Bryan Roy and Wim Jonk providing a 4-0 away victory over Luxembourg.

But fellow World Cup finalists Norway had to wait until two minutes from the end before substitute Frigaard grabbed their winner against Byelorussia, making their competitive debut in Oslo.

Apart from Northern Ireland — beaten 2-1 at home by Portugal — it was largely a good night for the British Isles. Wales beat a surprisingly competitive Albanian side 2-0 with goals from Chris Coleman and Ryan Giggs, while Scotland started in style with a 2-0 win in Finland thanks to goals from Duncan Shearer and John Collins.

The Irish Republic won 3-0 in Latvia while qualifying hat-tricks went to Toni Polster (for Austria against Liechtenstein) and Horst Siegl (for the Czech Republic against Malta).



Ryan's corker . . . a spectacular free kick by Ryan Giggs helped Wales to a 2-0 win over Albania.

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Sorry seems to be the hardest word

EGALITARIANISM — what a word to start a column! — is all the vogue in football these days. You cannot turn over a page in a match programme or a sponsor's handout without learning that some player, manager or club has won yet another daily, weekly or monthly award for doing what comes naturally given their talent for the Beautiful Game.

Just like a kid's birthday party. Even if you don't win one of the games at least you still get a bag of sweets to take home. Even the rarity value of a Wembley cup appearance has been watered down by the busy schedule of semi-finals, play-offs and Much-Binding-in-the-March Cup finals which are now staged there.

The World Cup, which has now entered the history books, provided ample evidence of this falling value of prizes. We acclaimed not only the winning team (Brazil), but the top scorers (Salenko and Stoichkov), the best player (Romario), the best goalkeeper (Preud'homme), the most memorable moment, the most entertaining team and handed out the fair play prize nobody wanted because the implication is you didn't spill enough blood on the pitch (Belgium got it, incidentally).

There was even a little gold bauble, whose title I forget, but which is presented to the winning captain after the very last game.

Of course, we at *WORLD SOCCER* do not ignore the bandwagon. Annually, we invite you to cast your votes for our World Player of the Year, Manager of the Year and Team of the Year (voting details in these pages next month, incidentally — excuse the advertisement).

Since, in this floodtide of back-slapping, one more award would be neither here nor there, how about the Packie Bonner Award for Honesty?

Bonner, veteran hero of a record 77 internationals for the Republic of Ireland, was the man who, literally, dropped a clanger. The Irish were one goal down against Holland in their World Cup second-round clash when Wim Jonk let fly.

Not the hardest shot he has ever hit. Bonner saw the ball all the way, reached out . . . and fumbled it back over the line. It was the killer goal.

Now, Bonner could have blamed:

1) Jack Charlton for moaning so much about the heat that Bonner couldn't concentrate on the game;
2) The new Questra ball;
3) His glove sponsors for providing a non-stick variety rather than the glued version favoured by gridiron heroes;
4) The sun (it was overcast but that hasn't stopped other goalkeepers);
5) Dennis Bergkamp for indulging in a song-and-dance routine to distract him;
6) The exchange rate between the Irish Punt and the dollar.

All would be considered eminently proper and reasonable excuses by others. But not Bonner. He had something unique to say: "I feel I've let everybody down. I don't know what went wrong, but the blame is on me and I feel so sorry for all the fans."

Honest Pat . . . Bonner came clean on his World Cup clanger against Holland.

Read those words again. Put your glasses on or your lenses in if you must. Yes, that's it. A player plainly, honestly and honorably owned up to the fact that he and he only, personally, individually and without exception, had made a mistake.

A man unlike most of the rest not only in the World Cup finals but in the game in general.

Several countries made their excuses before even kicking a ball, you may remember. Belgian officials and Ireland manager Charlton fumed about the heat, kick-off times, water arrangements and so forth.

Later, in defeat by Mexico, Charlton's first words were: "We were beaten by the heat." Did Mexico and Bolivia, on flying home, blame having to play at sea level?

I think Belgium led the Whinge Table. Not only did they complain about conditions, they heaped extra blame for their elimination on referee Kurt Rothlisberger.

Yes, he should have sent off Thomas Helmer and awarded Belgium a penalty for the German defender's later-than-late challenge on Josip Weber. On the other hand, if the Belgian defence hadn't slept through the first hour they wouldn't have been 3-1 down at that stage, would they?

Then we had the latest Maradona Mystery. His dope test ban (which provoked Argentina's defeat) followed a conspiracy masterminded by "one particular country" (In 1990 that meant Italy; this time around Brazil).

Now, follow his argument to its illogical conclusion: the IOC and FIFA put ephedrine on their banned listed more than 10 years ago because they knew that, one day, they could use that clause to falsely incriminate poor, defenceless, victimised Maradona.

Get real, Diego Armando. And not just you personally but the sycophantic coterie of journalists who can't see further than the end of their own typewriters (I wish you, dear reader, could have heard the hapless, hopeless chorus THAT day in Dallas, searching vainly for excuses where none existed). Any athlete who takes any drug cheats himself, his team-mates, his opponents, his fans and the game at large.

Sadly, one suspects Maradona wouldn't recognise the truth now if the Hand of God itself slapped him in the face.

Next in line: Nigeria, the deepest well of talent in Africa. Their successes in world youth events prove the point. But at World Cup level Cameroon, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and even Zaire were years ahead of them.

Nigeria always lacked a manager ruthless enough to make them play like a real team. Then they found the idiosyncratic Dutchman, Clemens Westerhof. He squeezed a bunch of wildly talented individuals into a tactical discipline and into the World Cup finals for the first time.

Yet, within minutes of that narrow second-round defeat by Italy, Nigeria had splintered back into self-defeating individuals who forgot everything they had learned in just the time it had taken for one final blast on the referee's whistle.

Rashidi Yekini said he had never liked Westerhof, had never rated him as a coach, thought his team and tactical selections all wrong and blamed the Dutchman — most bizarre — for the fact that the other players did not give him the ball (nothing to do with Costacurta and Maldini, of course).

A string of Nigerian players queued to stick in the knife. In that frenzied, defeated cacophony you understood instantly why Nigeria had never qualified for the World Cup before and why they may not do so again for quite some time.

Each one of the 24 teams attending the World Cup finals can be winners. Each one has 23 chances out of 24 of being losers. But losers gain by going out with grace and honour.

And, perhaps, with the Packie Bonner Award.

A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

THE QUESTRA football — named after President Kennedy's Quest for the Stars space programme — sent more than a few goalkeepers into World Cup orbit.

To develop the Questra, adidas employed space-age technology designed to allow the player greater control of the ball. Although it looks slicker than the 1990 ball, the Etrusco, the Questra does swerve, curve and dip more sharply than its predecessor. Not that the increase in goalscoring at USA '94 was wholly down to the Questra — FIFA's new interpretations of the rules and regulations had greater influence.

Goalkeepers were generally unhappy about the lack of time to prepare for the arrival of the Questra.

Tony Meola — who, apparently now, has problems with the oval ball as well — said: "Four months before the World Cup in Italy, we had the new ball and it was very different for everybody. Now four months before this past World Cup, they gave us the new ball and this one was different again. Four months should have been enough for everyone to adjust but there's no question that the ball swerves more. That's the reason for some of the weird goals that were scored."

Switzerland's Marco Pascolo, turned inside out by Eric Wynalda's first-match free-kick, agreed. He says: "This new ball definitely flies a lot easier. It's very fast and lighter. Look at Wynalda's goal on video and you will see just how much the ball moved."

An even more obvious example of the ball's idiosyncracies was the goal scored by Fuad Amin of Saudi Arabia against Morocco. With the game all-square at 1-1, Amin shot from 25 yards out. It was not a hard shot but swerved late in flight, clipped goalkeeper Azmi's wrist instead of smacking into his arms and bounced over the line for the decisive Saudi goal.

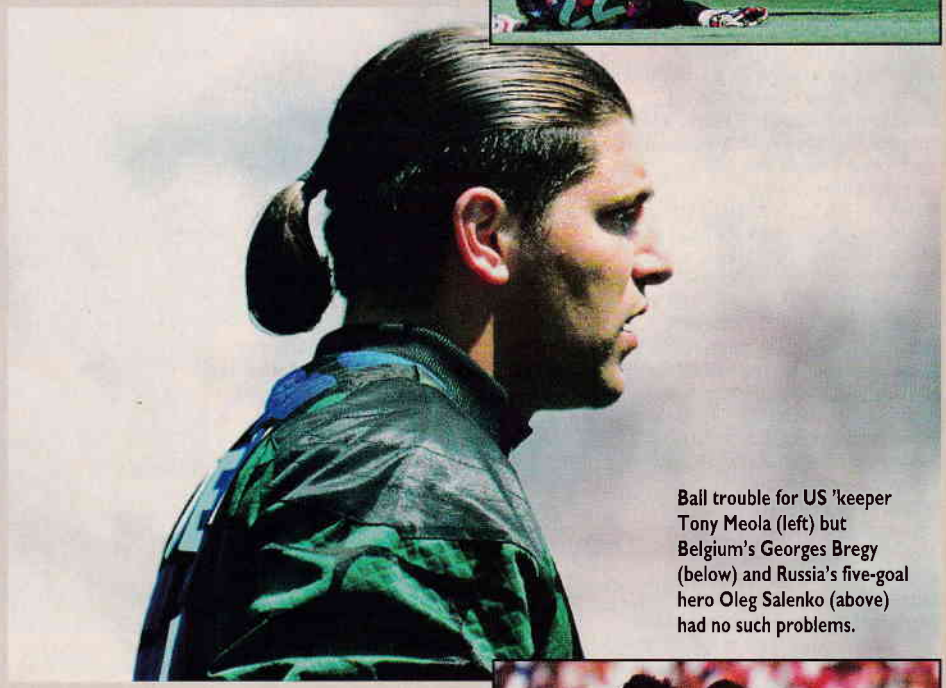
Other oddities included Gheorghe Hagi's high looping cross-shot which fooled goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba of Colombia. Cordoba says: "I know I made mistakes in that game against Romania. But the ball is crazy. It just takes off, like it had a mind of its own — especially when people hit shots from long range."

Forwards were not as impressed. Oleg Salenko, who scored a record five times for Russia against Cameroon, said: "I didn't know we were playing with a new ball. It doesn't matter to me. The ball is there and my job is to put it in the net. It doesn't matter to me how old the net is either as long as the ball goes in it."

Switzerland's midfield general, Georges Bregy, a free-kick specialist, added: "The ball is still round, like it always was. It's really no different to any other. I've used so many different footballs in the 15 years I've been playing professionally that I can't tell the difference between one and another.

"It's just a marketing scheme."

Questra for success, so to speak ?



Ball trouble for US 'keeper Tony Meola (left) but Belgium's Georges Bregy (below) and Russia's five-goal hero Oleg Salenko (above) had no such problems.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

RETURNING to the United States for a holiday it was fascinating to see how soccer had virtually disappeared from the sports pages of the daily press. Those newspapers and television channels which enthused over acres of white paper and screen time about the World Cup had reverted to type (or lack of it).

The World Cup was going to be, according to a clutch of wide-eyed innocents, the Road to Damascus for the American media as far as soccer was concerned.

Not so.

Now, I hear, the baseball strike is the next mirage opening up great media opportunities for soccer to fill the gap.

Wrong again. Baseball, on strike, has still been earning far more sport (and news) page attention than soccer.

Yes, English, German and Italian and European club cup results can be found in the small print. But that's nothing new. Yes, *The Los Angeles Times*, courtesy of writers such as Julie Cart and Grahame Jones, keep the soccer flag flying most days. But then, they have LA Salsa locally to provide ready copy.

Such a pity Major League Soccer was not there, in place, to capitalise on the World Cup fall-out. A great opportunity wasted, I fear.

GREMLINS PUT THE BOOT IN

LAST WORDS on the World Cup, literally. Several readers received copies of our July edition (the World Cup Report Issue) in which technical gremlins removed the last line of two match reports. So, for anyone still puzzling over sentences which stopped in mid-air on page 18, let's put your minds at rest.

The US-Colombia match report should end: "... half, Balbao just failing with a bicycle kick."

Then the Switzerland-Colombia report should end: "... ball when shooting was a better option."

All happy now?

BY PADDY AGNEW

MALDINI

too good to be true

MILAN and Italy left-back Paolo Maldini is almost too good to be true. Successful, glamorous, good looking and with estimated annual earnings in excess of £1.5million, he is not only one of Italian soccer's undisputed world class talents but also highly respected and liked within the Italian soccer community.

Despite the fact that he has been a first-class player since the age of 16, Maldini has proved that precocious talent does not necessarily lead to pyschological imbalance in later life. He made his debut for Milan in a 1-1 draw with Udinese at the San Siro in January 1985 and played 27 times for Milan as a 17-year-old in the following season.

That early blooding in the rough world of professional soccer, however, has not proved traumatic.

Maldini does not smash up discotheques, crash Ferraris, become involved in much-photographed love stories with internationally famous actresses, skip training, brawl with team-mates, punch reporters or fail post-match dope tests in the manner of some of his talented colleagues.

Off the field, Paolo Maldini leads a quiet life, just outside Milan with steady girlfriend, Adriana, (of Italo-Venezuelan origins) and in a luxury residence where the most regular guests are not the glitterati of the Italian social scene but his two sisters and one brother.

Rather than dance the primrose path of dalliance into the early hours,

Maldini's best known social pasttime is a meal out in a good restaurant with family or friends.

After that, it is home to an early bed.

Maldini has one of the best-known faces in Italian public life, used by a wide variety of car makers, wine producers and fashion designers as a promotional vehicle for their products.

When fashion designer Giorgio Armani attended one of the Italian team's last training sessions at Milanello in June, prior to the side's departure for the World Cup, he was asked if he would have liked to use any of the Italian squad as models for his clothes range.

His unhesitating replay was inevitable — "Maldini".

Maldini is not just a pretty face, not just a superb footballer. During the early days of this summer's World Cup, he wrongfooted one US reporter who wanted his reaction to the fact that the New York based "Gay Games" seemed to be getting more coverage than soccer's premier tournament.

Maldini told the reporter that he saw nothing scandalous about the interest in the Gay Games, or the lack of interest in the World Cup.

We are in America, he said, adding that he was sure many of the gay athletes were probably very good and that he would like to meet them.

Maldini, of course, is a "Figlio D'Arte", the son of a famous player, Cesare, who led Milan to a Champions Cup success at Wembley back in 1963.

That start in life has undoubtedly proved beneficial.

Yet, such is the talent of Cesare's son that by the age of 17 and with a full First Division season at his back, Paolo was recognised as potentially an even greater player and someone whose rise and rise owed nothing to parental promotion.

He has been capped 58 times and is now in his eleventh season for Milan, all at the ripe old age of 26. His talent needs little explanation.

At 13 stone and 6'2" in height, he is a substantial defender, blessed with pace and with an ability to play off either foot, despite his regular selection at left back.

He is difficult to get past in defence, and regularily moves forward with effect, as either the classic overlapping full-back or as potential goalscorer with his head at set-pieces.

When Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi was assessing his forthcoming World Cup campaign for the benefit of *WORLD SOCCER* last January, he began his analysis with what he called some "reassuring considerations" — namely that Italy would go to the World Cup with at least three players of undisputed world-class talent — Franco Baresi, Roberto Baggio and Paolo Maldini.

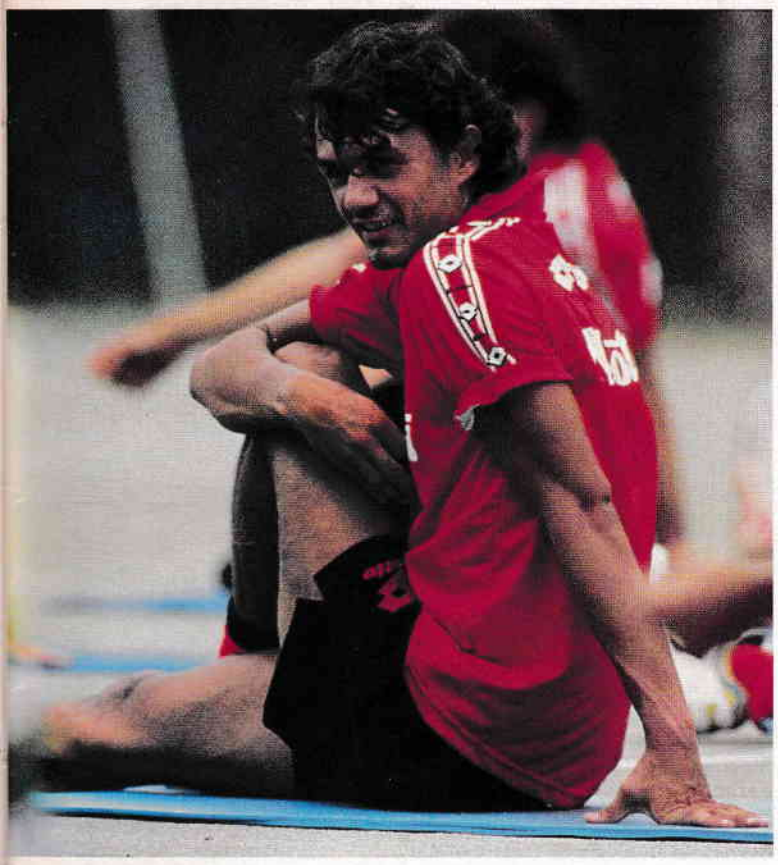
Baresi's heroic return from injury to play a magnificent game against Brazil in the final has already past into soccer legend, while Baggio's five goals were the reason that Italy were in that final at all.

Yet if Maldini's contribution to the side was less spectacular, they were arguably even more important for the overall Italian World Cup cause.

Unlike Baresi, whose finals campaign was interrupted by injury, and unlike Baggio, who was taken off against Norway, who disappointed in the Final itself and whose World Cup was nothing if not inconsistent, Maldini played exceptionally well from the start of Italy's opening game against Ireland to the end

The problem with Paolo . . . is that he's faultless. Maldini is a model pro.

PRO-FILE
PAOLO MALDINI
MILAN & ITALY
Born June 26, 1968 in Milan.
Previous clubs none.
Serie A debut January 20, 1985 v Udinese (drew 1-1).
International debut March 31, 1988, v Yugoslavia (drew 1-1)
International caps 58.
International goals 7.
HONOURS
Italian League 1988, 1992, 1993, 1994.
Champions Cup 1989, 1990, 1994.
European Super Cup 1989, 1990.
World Club Cup 1989, 1990.
World Cup: runner-up (1994), third place (1990).



of the losing Final against Brazil.

Maldini, remember, played in all seven Italian games in America this summer and as such was one of only three Italians to start in every game — Demetrio Albertini and Roberto Baggio were the others.

In so doing, Maldini was only confirming the consistency of form which has made him virtually ever-present in the Milan side of the last nine seasons.

Last year, for example, he played in 31 of Milan's 34 league games, 26 of them consecutively, in a season when he also lined up in 10 of Milan's 12 Champions Cup games.

When people suggest that Maldini is a model professional, the term probably does not do him justice.

He is model, yes, in his professional and serious attitude, in the fact that he is not a player to cause problems for team mates, his coach, his club or indeed for himself.

He is, however, much more than just a model professional.

He is God's greatest gift to the pressurised team coach.

Twice in 1994 Maldini has been asked to step into the breach in a vitally important final and play out of his usual left-back position.

Against Barcelona in the Champions Cup Final in Athens last May, he was called on by Milan coach Fabio Capello to fill the huge defensive gap left by the suspension enforced absence of both Franco Baresi and central partner Alessandro Costacurta. Capello not only asked Maldini to play out of position but to take over responsibility for running the entire Milan defence.

The result was a careful, measured performance in which Milan may not have used the offside trap as much as they would have done with Baresi in charge, but in which Milan nonetheless never looked remotely vulnerable at the back.

Indeed, on one of the few early occasions when Barcelona actually penetrated the Milan defence, with Amor getting into the penalty area on a dangerous run, Maldini cut him short with imperious ease.

Two months later in Los Angeles, another coach, Sacchi, had reason to be grateful for Maldini's all round abilities. Again Alessandro "Billy" Costacurta was the player to miss out on a final through suspension (what an unfortunate "pair" for Costacurta) and again the man to save the day with seeming nonchalance was Maldini.

Admittedly, he was asked to play alongside Baresi for only the first half hour of the World Cup final, moving to left-back when injured right-back Roberto Mussi was replaced by central defender Luigi Apolloni.

Nonetheless, the point had been made. Class is not water, as Italians say, and Paolo Maldini has lots of it.

CAN ANYONE CATCH MILAN?

Inter, Parma, Juventus and Lazio all strengthened their squads over the summer. Fiorentina have bounced back to the big time after just one season in Serie B. But Milan look stronger than ever. Paddy Agnew considers the Serie A contenders.

BARI Both pre-season friendly form and overall squad strength (or lack of) suggest that Bari will make a quick return to the Serie B, from which they have been promoted, two years after their last inglorious, David Platt-led experience in Serie A. The signing of Colombian Miguel Guerrero (the club's only significant purchase) seems unlikely to guarantee survival.

BRESCIA The Romanian influence lingers on, even after Georghe Hagi's departure to Barcelona. Canny Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu and midfielders Ioan Sabau and Danut Lupu (the latter bought from Rapid Bucharest via Greek side OFI Crete) will form the backbone of a side whose seasonal objective will all too clearly be First Division survival.

CAGLIARI Surprise UEFA Cup semi-finallists last year, Cagliari can again count on the useful foreign trio of Beglian Luis Oliveira and Uruguayan Jose Herrera. Weakened by the departures of Gianfranco Matteoli and Francesco Moreiro, Cagliari also begin the new season with an obvious question mark over the head of their new coach, former Uruguay national coach, Oscar Tabarez, making his "Italian" debut.

CREMONESE With only one foreigner in the side, Slovenia's Matjaz Florijanic, and ex-Modena striker Enrico Chiesa representing the major buy of the summer, it seems obvious that Cremonese will once again have First Division survival as sole seasonal aim.

Bastistuta . . . fireworks for Fiorentina.

FIORENTINA Undoubtedly the single biggest novelty factor in this year's championship, Fiorentina return to Serie A after a year in which they run away with the Second Division title. They return strengthened with a defence based on Brazilian World Cup star Marcio Santos, with a potentially devastating attack comprising Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta and Francesco Baiano and with a brand new midfield schemer in the shape of Portugal's Rui Costa. Wait for fireworks.

Rui Costa . . . midfield schemer.

FOGGIA Deprived of spiritual mentor and coach, Zdenek Zeman (gone to Lazio), of foreign stars, Dutchman Bryan Roy (Nottingham Forest) and Argentinian Jose Chamot (Lazio), and also without their captain Andrea Seno (Internazionale) and midfield schemer Giovanni Stroppa (Milan), Foggia seem destined to be both less entertaining and less successful than in recent seasons. Russian Igor Kolivanov is the only foreigner in an otherwise unglamorous side.

GENOA The arrival of Japan's Asian Footballer of the Year, Kazuyoshi Miura, the first foreigner to buy his way into Italian soccer via a cluster of Japan-based sponsors, has added much to Genoa's curiosity value but probably little to their overall team strength. Miura will do well to get in a side where the strike force will revolve around Czech Tomas Skuhravy and ex-Napoli schemer Paolo Di Canio. With Dutchman Johnny Van't Schip also in the squad, Genoa should just about secure a mid-table placing.

INTERNAZIONALE The arrival of Italian World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca (Sampdoria), of defenders Giovanni Bia (Napoli) and Pierluigi Orlandini (Atalanta), of midfielder Andrea Seno (Foggia) and above all of the vastly experienced coach, Ottavio Bianchi, are indications of Inters' seriousness of intent as title contenders. Bianchi's biggest headache may come from the handling of a five-strong foreign player package that features Dutchmen Wim Jonk and Dennis Bergkamp, Uruguayan Ruben Sosa, Macedonian Darko Pancev and Russian Igor Shalimov.

JUVENTUS With the exceptions of striker Gianluca Vialli and schemer Roberto Baggio, it is all change at Juventus. A new coach, Marcello Lippi, a new president, Roberto Bettega, a new central defender, Ciro Ferrara (Napoli) and three new foreigners, Croat Robert Jarni (Torino), Frenchman Didier

Didier Deschamps . . . Juventus' new recruit.

Deschamps (Marseille) and Portugal's Paulo Sousa (Benfica) may prove too much for a Juventus side in which much will depend on Baggio's post-World Cup blues and on whether Vialli can finally regain form he has not shown since leaving Sampdoria, two seasons ago.

LAZIO Now or never. Having spent close on £27 million over the last two years, Lazio have now assembled a choice squad that features Croat Alen Boksic and Italian internationals Giuseppe Signori and Pierluigi Casiraghi in attack, with Dutchman Aron Winter and (eventually, injury recovery permitting) Englishman Paul Gascoigne in midfield, with Argentinian Jose Chamot in defence and Italian international Luca Marchegiani in goal. All of that has been topped off with the arrival of ex-Foggia miracle worker Zdenek Zeman as coach. Now or never, as far as the title is concerned.

MILAN As far as opponents are concerned, the bad news is that Milan arguably look stronger than ever this year, thanks to the return of little-known Dutchman, Ruud Gullit, not to mention the purchases of Gianluca Sordo (Torino), Giovanni Stroppa (Foggia) and of Roberto Lorenzini (Genoa). Rivals can only hope that the stress of appearing in a World Cup Final effects the early form of the seven Milan players who featured at US '94 (Albertini, Baresi, Costacurta, Donadoni, Maldini, Massaro, Tassotti). Some hope. Frenchman Marcel Desailly, Croat Zvonimir Boban and Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic look set to continue on with the good work.

NAPOLI Napoli have come up with probably the most intriguing combination of foreigners in Serie A, in the shape of Colombian Fredy Rincon (Palmeiras), Frenchman Alain Boghossian (Marseille) and Brazilian Andre Cruz (Standard Liege). Which is remarkable, given that their near-to-bankruptcy situation at the end of last season forced them to sell the family silver in the shape of Swede Jonas Thern, Uruguyan Daniel Fonseca (both to AS Roma), captain Ciro Ferrara (Juventus), defender Giovanni Bia (Inter) and schemer Paolo Di Canio (Genoa). First Division survival will suffice.

Fredy Rincon . . . new man at Napoli.

PADOVA Back in the First Division after a 32-year absence, Padova broke new ground when signing the US defender Alexi Lalas. It is questionable, however, whether the presence of the first American in Italian soccer, allied to the experience of such as Daniele Zoratto (ex-Parma) and Giuseppe Galderisi (ex-Milan) will be enough to guarantee survival.

PARMA One of the few teams to beat Milan more than once in recent seasons, Parma look better than ever this year, thanks to the signings of Portuguese defender Fernando Couto (FC Porto), Juventus and Italy midfielder Dino Baggio and international defender Roberto Mussi (Torino). With such players as Colombian Faustino Asprilla and Swede Tomas Brolin still in their ranks, Parma are obvious title contenders.

REGGIANA Another of the relegation battlers, Reggiana feature some interesting names such as Portugal's Paolo Futre (recovering from a knee injury that sidelined him for most of last season), the Nigerian Sunday Oliseh (FC Liege) and the Romanian Dorin Matteut. With the added experience of such as Nando De Napoli (ex-Milan), Luigi De Agostini (ex-Inter, ex-Juventus) and

No-one can catch us . . . Desailly and Baresi celebrate another title for Milan.

David Platt celebrates winning the Copa Italia . . . but Sampdoria will miss Gullit.

Angelo Gregucci (ex-Torino, ex-Lazio), they are sure to make life difficult for some of their more prestigious rivals.

AS ROMA One of the summer's big spenders, Roma have acquired Swede Jonas Thern, Uruguyan Daniel Fonseca (both Napoli) and Francesco Moriero (Cagliari) in an attempt to put themselves back into title contention orbit. Argentinian Abel Balbo combines with Fonseca to provide a potent attack, while Brazilian World Cup winner Aldair adds class and control to the defence. Roma are possible outsiders for the title.

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sampdoria	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Internazionale	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Parma	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Fiorentina	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Milan	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lazio	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Napoli	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brescia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Foggia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Juventus	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
AS Roma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Bari	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Genoa	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Reggiana	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cagliari	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Cremonese	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Torino	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Padova	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

MIDWEEK

SUPER CUP

MILAN 1 (Gullit)
SAMPDORIA 1 (Mihajlovic)
Milan won on pens

WEEKEND

ITALIAN CUP — 1ST ROUND

RAVENNA 1
PALERMO 2

MONZA 2
VENEZIA 1 *(aet)*

COMO 1
ASCOLI 0

BOLOGNA 0
ATALANTA 1

PERUGIA 2
VERONA 0

JUVE STABIA 0
UDINESE 1

ACIREALE 2
VICENZA 3

MODENA 3
COSENZA 2

SPAL 0
PIACENZA 1

SALERNITANA 0
FIDELIS ANDRIA 1

REGGINA 2
LECCE 2 *(aet)*
Reggina won 4-2 on pens

PESCARA 0
CESENA 1

FIORENZUOLA 3
ANCONA 2 *(aet)*

CHIEVO 1
LUCCHESE 1 *(aet)*
Chievo won 4-3 on pens

PRO SESTO 0
REGGIANA 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — 1ST ROUND

LODIGIANI 0
INTERNAZIONALE 3

ITALIAN CUP — 2ND ROUND, 1ST LEG

MILAN 0
PALERMO 1

PADOVA 0
INTERNAZIONALE 3

COMO 0
FOGGIA 2

CAGLIARI 1
ATALANTA 0

PARMA 4
PERUGIA 0

SAMPDORIA 5
CIVENZA 1

BARI 0
PIACENZA 1

NAPOLI 3
FIDELIS ANDRIA 2

CREMONESE 1
LECCE 1

CESENA 0
GENOA 1

FIORENZUOLA 0
AS ROMA 3

REGGIANA 1
BRESCIA 0

JUVENTUS 0
CHIEVO 0

UDINESE v FIORENTINA — *postponed*

MONZA v TORINO — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

WEEKEND

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LAZIO 1 (Signori 21). **Att:** 26,000.

BRESCIA 1 (Schenardi 80)
JUVENTUS 1 (Conte 55). **Att:** 25,000.

FIORENTINA 2 (Napoli 11 og, Batistuta 79)
CAGLIARI 1 (Herrera 75 pen). **Att:** 40,000.

NAPOLI 1 (Carbone 89)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 31,000.

PARMA 2 (Couto 20, Zola 60)
CREMONESE 0. **Att:** 35,000.

AS ROMA 1 (Totti 29)
FOGGIA 1 (Kolyvanov 67). **Att:** 60,000.

SAMPDORIA 5 (Mancini 13, Evani 43, Platt 52, Mihajlovic 68, Melli 80 pen)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 21,000.

TORINO 0
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MILAN 1 (Simone 53)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 53,602.

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Therefore it came as no surprise to find the reigning champions, Milan, and challengers, Internazionale, Sampdoria, Parma and Lazio all getting off to predictably winning starts against relatively weaker opposition provided by Genoa, Torino, Padova, Cremonese and Bari respectively.

What also came as only a minor surprise was the failure of Juventus to make a winning start away to Brescia, where they were held to a 1-1 draw.

In so doing, Juventus confirmed both poor pre-season form and the suspicion that their policy of "all change" will make them the slowest starters of the championship challengers.

Juventus, of course, are the most successful Italian club of all time, with 22 titles to their credit.

However, in recent years the Turin club has had to play an unaccustomed and unwelcome second fiddle to giants Milan, who this year will be trying for a fourth successful title to thus emulate the great Torino side of the post-war era.

In (yet another) attempt to stop the rot, Juventus last winter engaged a new president in the shape of former striker, Roberto Bettega, and a new coach in Marcello Lippi, previously with Napoli, Atalanta and Cesena.

Furthermore, Juventus spent over $15million on the transfer market this summer, buying such as Frenchman Didier Deschamps (Marseille), Croat Robert Jarni (Torino), Portugal's Paulo Sousa (Sporting Lisbon), Ciro Ferrara (Napoli) and Luca Fusi (Torino).

New president Bettega was distinctly underwhelmed by his club's opening peformance.

Although claiming to being unworried by a draw in which Juventus were run out of the game in the last half hour, Bettega did comment: "After we scored our goal [Antonio Conte, 55th minute], we stopped playing, we closed down entirely and were incapable of controlling the game".

Brescia coach, Romanian Mircea Lucescu took a somewhat dimmer view, saying: "The result is a lie, we deserved more than a draw".

Brescia, promoted back to the First Division but without star Romanian midfielder Georghes Hagi, who has gone to Barcelona, will doubtless prove themselves awkward customers for sides other than Juventus.

Yet the suspicion remains that Juventus may take too long this year to get into full flight.

A major Juventus problem, of course, is that the side continues to rely heavily on Italy's World Cup hero, Roberto Baggio, who having taken time off after USA '94 to go on a hunting holiday in Argentina, started the season some way short of full fitness. Speaking after the game, however, Baggio refused to be discouraged by the result, commenting: "It didn't go all that well, but we still managed to do a few good things.

"We can only get better. As for being behind [the other title challengers] already, well, if we start talking like that on the first day . . . "

Elsewhere, business as usual. The champions, Milan, did the necessary, winning 1-0 against a Genoa side which fielded Japanese striker Kazuyoshi Miura.

The former Asian Footballer of the Year made an unfortunate start in Italy, breaking his nose following a painful-looking clash of heads with Milan captain Franco Baresi.

Italian clubs altogether paid out nearly $30million to hire 17 new foreigners for this year's Serie A.

Ironically, though, it was Miura, the one foreigner who came free of charge and who does not even receive a salary from Genoa, who attracted by far the most attention on the opening day.

It is too soon to assess Miura's chances of making it in Italian soccer.

What we do know, however, is that his deal provides emphatic proof that these days soccer is much more business than sport.

He came to Genoa, courtesy of the club's Japanese sponsor, Kenwood, who in return for $1.6million worth of sponsorship wanted a say in the on and off the field affairs of Genoa.

Basically, a Japan-based consortium involving clothes-wear firm, Puma, drinks firm, Suntory, TV companies *Fujii Television* and *Tokio TV* have put together a $2.5million package to send Miura to Genoa and to pay him his $1million annual salary.

For their part, Genoa have to guarantee to field the player (ideally with the No. 11 shirt) in a series of midweek prestige friendlies against Real Madrid, Barcelona etc and during an end of season, Far East tour.

The deal is a mutually beneficial one, with Genoa getting both a free player and serious sponsorship, with the multinationals getting extensive exposure in the world's most glamorous soccer league and with the media getting the good story of "Our Boy Makes Good In Italy" — or so they hope.

Time will tell.

Otherwise, nothing seen in August friendlies, in Italian Cup games and indeed on the first day of the championship changes the suspicion that Milan remain the side to beat and that Parma, Lazio, Inter and Sampdoria (in that order) are the only real possibilities to do so.

Angelo Gregucci (ex-Torino, ex-Lazio), they are sure to make life difficult for some of their more prestigious rivals.

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SALERNITANA 0
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LECCE 2 *(aet)*
Reggina won 4-2 on pens

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CESENA 1

FIORENZUOLA 3
ANCONA 2 *(aet)*

CHIEVO 1
LUCCHESE 1 *(aet)*
Chievo won 4-3 on pens

PRO SESTO 0
REGGIANA 2

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MIDWEEK

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LODIGIANI 0
INTERNAZIONALE 3

ITALIAN CUP — 2ND ROUND, 1ST LEG

MILAN 0
PALERMO 1

PADOVA 0
INTERNAZIONALE 3

COMO 0
FOGGIA 2

CAGLIARI 1
ATALANTA 0

PARMA 4
PERUGIA 0

SAMPDORIA 5
CIVENZA 1

BARI 0
PIACENZA 1

NAPOLI 3
FIDELIS ANDRIA 2

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LECCE 1

CESENA 0
GENOA 1

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Furthermore, Juventus spent over $15million on the transfer market this summer, buying such as Frenchman Didier Deschamps (Marseille), Croat Robert Jarni (Torino), Portugal's Paulo Sousa (Sporting Lisbon), Ciro Ferrara (Napoli) and Luca Fusi (Torino).

New president Bettega was distinctly underwhelmed by his club's opening peformance.

Although claiming to being unworried by a draw in which Juventus were run out of the game in the last half hour, Bettega did comment: "After we scored our goal [Antonio Conte, 55th minute], we stopped playing, we closed down entirely and were incapable of controlling the game".

Brescia coach, Romanian Mircea Lucescu took a somewhat dimmer view, saying: "The result is a lie, we deserved more than a draw".

Brescia, promoted back to the First Division but without star Romanian midfielder Georghes Hagi, who has gone to Barcelona, will doubtless prove themselves awkward customers for sides other than Juventus.

Yet the suspicion remains that Juventus may take too long this year to get into full flight.

A major Juventus problem, of course, is that the side continues to rely heavily on Italy's World Cup hero, Roberto Baggio, who having taken time off after USA '94 to go on a hunting holiday in Argentina, started the season some way short of full fitness. Speaking after the game, however, Baggio refused to be discouraged by the result, commenting: "It didn't go all that well, but we still managed to do a few good things.

"We can only get better. As for being behind [the other title challengers] already, well, if we start talking like that on the first day . . . "

Elsewhere, business as usual. The champions, Milan, did the necessary, winning 1-0 against a Genoa side which fielded Japanese striker Kazuyoshi Miura.

The former Asian Footballer of the Year made an unfortunate start in Italy, breaking his nose following a painful-looking clash of heads with Milan captain Franco Baresi.

Italian clubs altogether paid out nearly $30million to hire 17 new foreigners for this year's Serie A.

Ironically, though, it was Miura, the one foreigner who came free of charge and who does not even receive a salary from Genoa, who attracted by far the most attention on the opening day.

It is too soon to assess Miura's chances of making it in Italian soccer.

What we do know, however, is that his deal provides emphatic proof that these days soccer is much more business than sport.

He came to Genoa, courtesy of the club's Japanese sponsor, Kenwood, who in return for $1.6million worth of sponsorship wanted a say in the on and off the field affairs of Genoa.

Basically, a Japan-based consortium involving clothes-wear firm, Puma, drinks firm, Suntory, TV companies *Fujii Television* and *Tokio TV* have put together a $2.5million package to send Miura to Genoa and to pay him his $1million annual salary.

For their part, Genoa have to guarantee to field the player (ideally with the No. 11 shirt) in a series of midweek prestige friendlies against Real Madrid, Barcelona etc and during an end of season, Far East tour.

The deal is a mutually beneficial one, with Genoa getting both a free player and serious sponsorship, with the multinationals getting extensive exposure in the world's most glamorous soccer league and with the media getting the good story of "Our Boy Makes Good In Italy" — or so they hope.

Time will tell.

Otherwise, nothing seen in August friendlies, in Italian Cup games and indeed on the first day of the championship changes the suspicion that Milan remain the side to beat and that Parma, Lazio, Inter and Sampdoria (in that order) are the only real possibilities to do so.

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Past master . . . Jorge Valdano scores for Argentina in the 1986 World Cup Final.

VALDANO

verbals and victory

REAL MADRID are deep in debt, without a League title since 1990, and overshadowed by the arch-enemies in Barcelona. The president is engaged in a fingertip struggle to hang on to his job, and the club's prestige is shot to ribbons.

Some would say it's the best time for a new manager to take over on a "things can only improve" basis. Others maintain that taking over the dug-out at the Bernabeu stadium is an admission of near lunacy.

For better or for worse, Jorge Valdano, almost 39, has agreed to return to the club and take over as boss of his former team-mates. Many assess his chances of success by juxtaposing snowballs and hell.

Valdano is, as football people like to say, a bit special. A bit too special for the "sick-as-a-parrot" brigade who harbour deep distrust of anyone capable of stringing a couple of sentences together. But Real's new boss is not the sort of person who uses the gift of the gab to disguise ignorance or lack of personality. He is not all talk and no studs.

One of the Argentinian's early memories after arriving at Second Division Alaves from Newell's Old Boys at the age of 19 is of a Cup tie against Johan Cruyff's Barcelona.

Valdano tried to interfere with the Dutchman's habitual "sledging" of the referee and was promptly told "for a start, young man, I am Mister Cruyff to you."

The two men are now again opponents but their relationship is now underpinned by a stratum of mutual respect and a joint belief in attacking football.

Four seasons at Alaves brought Valdano 22 goals in 102 League games and a move to First Division football at Zaragoza. Between 1979 and 1983 he scored 37 times in 114 League appearances without ever rating himself as a born goalscorer. But he was then snapped up by Real Madrid in a transfer which raised blisters.

Barcelona brandished a document giving them first option and the aftershocks of the earthquake lumbered coach Terry Venables with two players he did not want — defender Salva and striker Amarilla — and proved to be nothing more than thorns in his Barcelona side. They had been "stolen" from Zaragoza in reprisal for the Valdano transfer.

Valdano's value as a team member can be best gauged by recalling his contribution to Argentina's World Cup winning campaign in 1986.

He was born in Las Parejas, Argentina on October 4, 1955, barely two months after Real had clinched their first league title since 1980.

At that time the Bernabeu stadium was a virtually impregnable fortress for European visitors, prompting Valdano to invent the explanation of "scenic terror". His task is now to revive the phenomenon after several seasons in which every Tom, Dick and Harry has arrived at Bernabeu looking fearlessly for a result and very often getting one.

Coach signals new era for Real

Valdano's career was interrupted by Hepatitis B. The player eased his way out of the headlines, leaving the thinking man to emerge. He began to coach youngsters and started writing lucid articles for *El Pais* newspaper. Carlos Bilardo, acknowledging his 1986 value, persuaded him to brush the dust off his boots at the end of 1989, but he failed to meet the physical requirements for the World Cup campaign.

The next turning point came on April 14, 1992, when Valdano was in

New boy at Atletico Madrid . . . Adolfo Valencia.

Turin as a TV commentator. Tenerife had just dismissed Jorge Solari of Saudi Arabia fame and Valdano was persuaded to take over the relegation-bound club for the last eight fixtures of that season and the whole of 1982-83.

The club stayed up and promptly went into the UEFA Cup at the end of the following season. Valdano's Tenerife were responsible for the last-fixture wins over Real which gave the 1992 and 1993 titles to Barcelona, and his appointment to take over at Real is not unconnected to the "rid me of that meddlesome priest" syndrome.

More importantly, he had demonstrated at Tenerife that he was not only competent as a coach but also was a man of principle. There was a lot behind the glossy verbal facade.

His playing credo is firmly pegged to Menotti's ideals of zonal marking, a four-man defensive line and freedom of expression once the ball has been secured.

But, of course, Real's recent problems are not superficial enough to be solved with a change of playing system. The club's attitudes have to be changed and Valdano could just be the man to work the oracle.

Some feel that, although he was always going to find his way back to the Bernabeu, Valdano has taken the job too early. The one thing that was indisputably too early was the first-round UEFA Cup confrontation with Sporting Lisbon.

But Valdano's mere presence in the Real dug-out has provoked goosepimples in Barcelona. While Cruyff has dedicated his pre-season to restructuring his defensive system, the Catalan fans have taken note of Real's attractive play and Valdano's admission that "the important thing is not only to beat opponents but also to steal their virtues."

In Valencia, talk of a two-horse race is considered downright offensive, especially since Carlos Alberto Parreira took his side to the Nou Camp and beat Barcelona 4-1 in the pre-season Juan Gamper tournament.

Parreira, Brazil's World Cup-winning manager, claims to have completed his jigsaw with the signing of Mazinho from Palmeiras, and only Valencia's appalling record of under-achievement hedges bets on a title which has eluded them since 1971.

Athletic Bilbao also claim to have strengthened their chances by signing Barcelona's Jon Andoni Goikoetxea in exchange for Xavier Eskurza and £500,000, and then prising midfielder Bittor Alkiza away from Real Sociedad, where his father was president until recently.

Atletico Madrid, out of Europe this season, completed the late signings of Geli (Barcelona), Dobrovolski (on loan from Moscow Dynamo) and Colombian World Cup striker Adolfo Valencia (almost £2million from Bayern Munich).

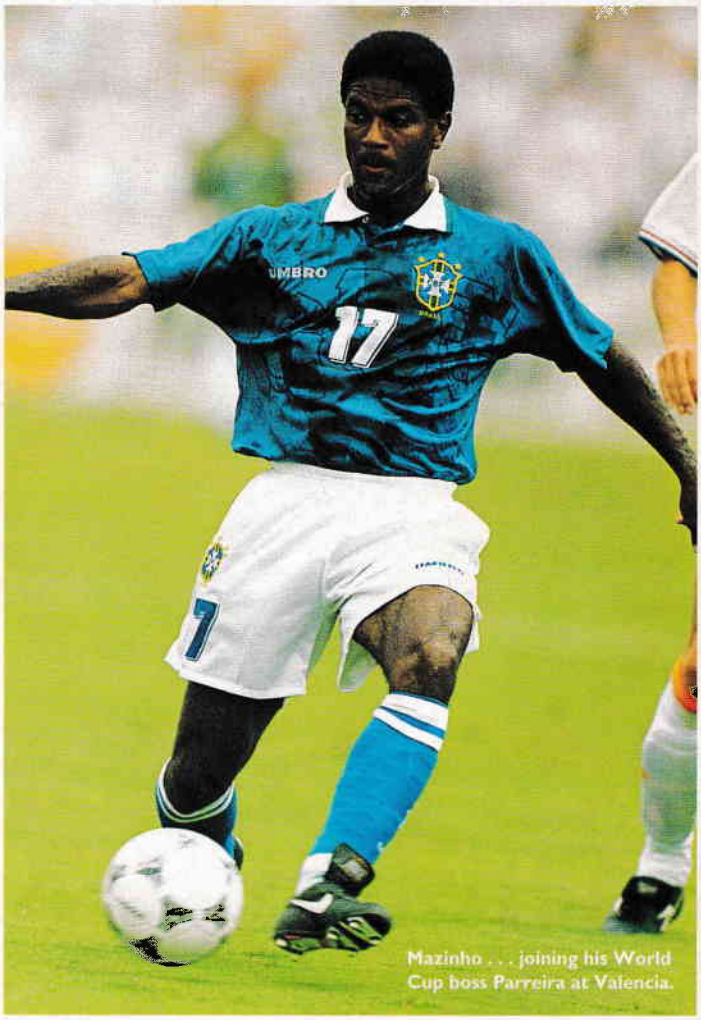
But the Brazilians have been hogging the recent headlines. All seemed like business as usual when Romario reported back to Barcelona 23 days late and then turned on the wide-eyed, little-boy-lost act which Guus Hiddink, Bobby Robson *et al* grew to know and love.

Cruyff hit him with a £50,000 fine (small beer compared with the £780,000 he had earned during those 23 days of truancy) but the matter may not rest there.

Within hours, his World Cup henchman Bebeto offered just over £4million to rescind his contract with Deportivo La Coruna on the strict understanding that he is to head for nowhere but his native Brazil. The club later claimed they doubted Bebeto could raise the money. He was missing quite a bit, having been fined over £1,000 a day for each of the 13 days he was late reporting for training.

Almost simultaneously, his club-and-country oppo, Mauro Silva, went down with a tendon injury which will keep him out until late November, and Deportivo suddenly began to take an urgent interest in Internazionale's Uruguayan striker, Ruben Sosa, whose negotiations with Real Madrid were blocked by the Italian club's board.

The upheaval has caused Deportivo's odds to lengthen considerably, while the odds on Real seem to be shortening by the day. The punters obviously are not reluctant to put their money where Valdano's mouth is.



Mazinho . . . joining his World Cup boss Parreira at Valencia.

Back in the game . . . Luboslav Penev (left).

Penev back in business

BULGARIAN international Luboslav Penev will rejoin Spanish side Valencia after a six-month battle with cancer.

Penev had surgery last February when a malignant tumour was discovered in one of his testicles. He subsequently underwent chemotherapy and says that he is now completely recovered.

He resumed training with Valencia during the first week of September, but is not expected to play with the Spanish First Division for at least a month, team officials said.

Penev, 27, was the third highest scorer in the Spanish league in the 1992/93 season with 20 goals. He had scored five goals when he was ruled out of action last February.

He is the nephew of Dimitri Penev, who coached the Bulgarian national side into the semi-finals of the the World Cup in July in the US. Penev joined Valencia in 1989 from CSKA Sofia.

He played in Bulgaria's dramatic 2-1 victory against France in Paris in November last year which ensured his country's qualification for the World Cup finals.

JORDI

following in his father's footsteps

COACH Joahn Cruyff, celebrating his 20-year-old relationship with Spanish champions Barcelona, said his one dream then was for his son Jordi to play for the club's first team.

Less than a year later, 20-year-old Jordi has made that dream come true. Six goals in two games made him Barcelona's top scorer on their recent pre-season tour of his native Holland, and a goal on his Spanish League debut helped Barca to a 2-1 win against Racing Santander — their first of the season.

"Cruyff and Cruyff: The New Tandem" said the front-page headline of the Barcelona-based *El Periodico* while the rest of Spain's newspapers ran laudatory reports on the budding midfielder.

Many observers even noted that the success of Jordi alongside new Romanian signing Gheorghe Hagi had made Johan Cruyff and his club forget their bitter feeelings over the errant ways of Brazilian ace Romario, who angered Cruyff by returning late from the World Cup.

Jordi teamed up with Hagi to score three times in Barcelona's 5-5 draw against FC Groningen and netted another treble in a 4-1 win over De Graafschap, prompting Cruyff senior to bring in Cruyff junior for Barcelona's second League game of the season.

But the young Cruyff has been careful not to let the glory zoom to his head.

"We mustn't exaggerate. I've demonstrated that I know something but now I want to be left alone to show I can do more," he said.

But the frequent whistles and boos with which the young Dutchman was greeted every time he got the ball during the Dutch tour demonstrated clearly how tough it is being the son of one of Europe's most talented footballers and successful coaches.

"The surname has weighed heavily," the long blond haired player said in a recent interview. "Especially at the beginning . . . whenever I got onto the pitch people would say 'Look that's Cruyff's son, the teacher's pet.'"

Jordi cannot win. On the one hand, Dutch fans often chide him for playing in Spain while Spaniards get their digs in because he is the coach's son.

Born in Amsterdam, Jordi began following in his father's mythical footsteps by playing for Ajax's juvenile teams, then coached by his father. But when Cruyff senior decided to return to Spain as coach to his former club Barcelona, Jordi went too.

In six years Jordi has risen steadily through the ranks to become a permanent starter for Barcelona 'B'. But his recent performances for the first team in the friendly games indicate that it won't be too long before he is a regular starter there, too.

Barcelona confirmed their confidence in the young star last year by signing him for four years on his first professional contract. "I wasn't going to let him get away," club chairman Josep Lluis Nunez said at the time.

On the pitch he's proved to have inherited at least some of the exquisite technical footwork and imaginative midfield passing of the elder Cruyff, who has won all the major club trophies as a player and coach.

The young Cruff's one apparent weakness is his slight build, which has made him easy prey for aggressive defenders.

Club officials say Jordi, who measures 1.84 metres (6ft) and weighs just 70 kilos (154 pounds), needs to be beefed up and have placed him on a special diet.

His father, although obviously jubilant at his son's progress, is cautious about the future.

"I'm not going to put him out in front of 100,000 spectators for them to tear him apart because he's not prepared," Johan Cruyff told *El Periodico*.

The son, too, is prepared to be patient and let his father call the shots.

"I understand he has a difficult task with me," he said. "While he may be proud of me as a player, I think he has to hide a little because of the others. I think he knows how to differentiate between son and player.

JONATHAN SHALLARD

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

WEEKEND

SUPERCUP — 1ST LEG

REAL ZARAGOZA 0
BARCELONA 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

SUPER CUP — 2ND LEG

BARCELONA 4
REAL ZARAGOZA 5
Barcelona won 7-4 on agg

WEEKEND

SEVILLA 1 (Bango 72 pen)
REAL MADRID 4 (Zamorano 15sec, 5, Alfonso 15, Michel 49 pen). **Att:** 58,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Pirri 44, Carminero 84)
VALENCIA 4 (Mijatovic 25, 47, 58, Salenko 51). **Att:** 47,000.

ESPANOL 4 (Raducioiu 44, Lardin 53, 60, Francisco 86)
REAL OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 71 pen, Rivas 75). **Att:** 23,000.

COMPOSTELLA 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 12, 48 pen). **Att:** 9,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
LA CORUNA 2 (Jose Ramon 71, Donato 82). **Att:** 42,000.

SPORTING GIJON 2 (Pier 14, Lediakhov 40)
BARCELONA 1 (Koeman 30). **Att:** 29,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Esnaider 3, Franco 61)
TENERIFE 2 (Ramis 14, Latorre 28). **Att:** 33,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Zalazar 65 pen)
CELTA VIGO 1 (Uribarrena 42). **Att:** 14,000.

LOGRONES 0
REAL BETIS 0. **Att:** 10,000.

RACING SANTANDER 0
REAL VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 17,000.

PRIMERA DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Espanol	1	1	0	0	4	2	2
Valencia	1	1	0	0	4	2	2
La Coruna	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Real Sociedad	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Gijon	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Tenerife	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Zaragoza	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Albacete	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Celta Vigo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Betis	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Logrones	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Santander	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Valladolid	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Barcelona	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Atletico Madrid	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Oviedo	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Athletic Bilbao	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Compostella	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sevilla	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

SIMON KUPER considers the future for two top Dutch players

ON A WING

ROY

Last chance?

BRYAN ROY signed for Nottingham Forest, then asked English journalists how long the drive is from Nottingham to London.

Roy, an Amsterdammer, was not made for the provinces. So why did the hip 24-year-old ex-model, who already has 26 caps for Holland, go to Nottingham? And should Forest have paid Italian club Foggia a club record £2.5 million for him?

As to why Roy came: the Dutch go gooey about British football. Johan Cruyff secretly loves it (the packed grounds, the colours), and Dennis Bergkamp's parents named their boy after Denis Law.

"I chose Nottingham because I've always wanted to play in England," said Roy. "The Italian league might be the best and most famous in Europe, but for me England is certainly number two."

The City Ground charmed him, and he remembered Forest's European Cup wins under Brian Clough.

Roy turned down three Italian clubs — reputedly Internazionale, Parma and Napoli — for Forest. Importantly, Nottingham is just an hour's flight from Amsterdam where Roy's actress wife wants to resume her career.

Not long ago Roy was heading for greater things than the Midlands. He was 12 when Johan Cruyff, then still playing, spotted him in junior football and had him taken to Ajax. At 14, people were guessing when he would make his Holland debut.

He raced through the Ajax youth ranks, where he formed a left-flank trio with Frank de Boer and Richard Witschge, and Holland schoolboys' teams were built around him.

On his Ajax debut, at 17, he dribbled past three Twente defenders to score. In those days he would help Ajax win a European tie in Hamburg one night, and go to school next morning.

At 19, he made his international debut. "I was a little boy who could do everything," he reminisces. Roy had the skill of Marco Van Basten, but somehow never matured. He would magnetise the nation one Sunday, then disappear for weeks — fine for a teenager, annoying in a 22-year-old.

Rinus Michels, as manager of Holland, told the press that Roy hardly scored nor crossed the ball . . . then picked him to play against Greece.

Leo Beenhakker, as Ajax manager, said Roy and his mates Witschge and the De Boer twins belonged to the "french fries generation". The youths responded by posing for photographers with their hands full of fries.

Witschge has not progressed after Ajax and Barcelona and is now stuck at Bordeaux. In September 1992,

Louis Van Gaal, the Ajax manager, suddenly revealed to the Dutch press that he was fed up with Roy, who was free to leave. Van Gaal called him "a fantastic footballer without yield," and said he hoped that "somewhere in the world there was a coach" who could turn Roy into a great player.

One newspaper called Van Gaal's speech a "funeral oration", and Roy was crushed. He, like everyone else, had assumed that one day he would be Ajax's main man, the new Cruyff or Van Basten. Roy scored only 20 goals in five years at Ajax, and left the club for little Foggia, Terry Venables having failed to take him to Tottenham.

In Italy, Roy became more efficient. Eleven goals in the last Serie A season was a sharper statistic than he ever managed at Ajax.

"Football was made to score goals," he says. "I used to think it was there to show tricks" — a weird confession from a pro.

But in September 1993, a year after the funeral oration, Roy was back in the Dutch team. He began to score more for Holland, twice in World Cup warm-up games against Scotland (impressing Forest manager Frank Clark), and in the World Cup, a match-winning goal against Morocco.

Yet the World Cup showed us the bad old Roy too. After failing against Belgium and Saudi Arabia, he admitted that he had been "slack, wishy-washy." Feyenoord manager Wim van Hanegem was disgusted: "You're playing in the World Cup, not the Sunflower tournament." But Frank Clark was not put out.

Forest are the British club where a slight, nonchalant Dutch winger might best fit in. Roy has been called an upmarket Franz Carr, but at his best he is a Trevor Francis.

Forest may be his last chance. He has made an excellent start, scoring on his League debut against Ipswich. But if things don't work out, he might find himself on that scrapheap for bright young wingers.

Forest ranger . . . Bryan Roy.

AND A PRAYER

OVERMARS

Joining the greats?

THE FEARSOME tormentor of British football teams is only 21 years old. Little Marc Overmars, Holland's "Roadrunner", the man who kept England out of the World Cup and knocked Ireland out of it, has another decade of international football left in him.

Overmars was born in the village of Emst, in eastern Holland, and soon decided he was going to play professional football. Then he started working at it.

"I got completely sick of it sometimes," complains elder brother Edwin, who also plays professionally, most recently for Go Ahead Eagles of Deventer. "We lost kickabouts because Marc had to do everything with his left foot."

Overmars, born right-footed, now crosses better with his left. He left home at 14 to enter Go Ahead's boarding school for young players, where he was never bothered that the others were older than he was.

"Self-confident? It's in the family, you know. My father. My mother. And of course you develop something yourself, too."

So he took it quite for granted that after a handful of games in Go Ahead's first team, and aged 17, he was able to move up to Willem II Tilburg. A year later he joined Ajax. Louis Van Gaal, the Ajax manager, was ridiculed for forking out £600,000. Now Ajax treasurer Arie Van Os beams as he asks, "Overmars? What do you think he's worth?"

At Ajax, Overmars looked at once as though he belonged. "When I first pulled on the shirt, I looked in the mirror and thought: 'Marc, that suits you.' The coach said the same thing."

Amsterdam ace . . . Marc Overmars.

Overmars fitted neatly into the tradition of crowd-pleasing Ajax wingers: Sjaak Swart, Piet Keizer, Jesper Olsen, and now Overmars and Nigeria's Finidi George. Ajax players are cocky ("Amsterdam bluff" they call it), and Overmars called for the ball from the start.

"It's incredibly difficult for players who didn't grow up at Ajax to get used to our game," says Van Os. "I know only one footballer who adjusted without a ripple — Overmars."

Ajax had signed him at a low salary, but when Overmars arrived in Amsterdam he told Van Os that the club would soon be renegotiating his contract. A few months later he was proved right.

By then, at 19, he had made his debut for Holland, against Turkey — and scored within four minutes. Two months after that, against England at Wembley, he kept the Dutch in the running for the World Cup when he left Des Walker standing and won a penalty, from which Peter Van Vossen salvaged a 2-2 draw. No wonder Overmars looks on Wembley as his favourite ground.

He played all 34 league games in his first Ajax season, and became a teen idol. Somehow he has never faltered in the way that young stars are supposed to do. This year he won the league title with Ajax, and this summer he played in the World Cup.

Overmars sometimes struggled in the Florida heat, and he shared the outside-right spot with Feyenoord's Gaston Taument, but he had his moments. The best came against Ireland, when Terry Phelan's header fell short of Packie Bonner. Overmars, a grin already visible, outsprinted Phelan and Phil Babb and slid the ball to Dennis Bergkamp, who, being Bergkamp, scored.

But Holland's next game was against Brazil, and cagey left-back Branco showed Overmars how much he still has to learn. Branco has no speed left, but he gave away no space behind him, and Overmars achieved little. As his brother Edwin comments, he still relies too much on knocking the ball down the line and racing the defender for it.

Yet as long as Holland keep ignoring the rest of the world and fielding wingers, Marc Overmars has years left to learn Branco's lesson.

His next target is to follow other Dutchmen to Italy, where they are already calling Serie A the "Serie Ajax". Paolo Maldini and future Des Walkers, beware.

BELGIUM

Changed for the better

HOW MICHEL PREUD'HOMME REACHED THE TOP OF THE WORLD

PROUD as punch — that's Michel Preud'homme of Belgium and now of Benfica.

He is still being congratulated after his unexpected ranking as the best goalkeeper at USA '94, and says: "It's a great honour — I'm delighted with all the compliments I have received.

"Considering that Belgium were knocked out relatively early, some might be a little surprised at my award. But during our matches with Morocco and Holland I pulled off several good saves and obviously the FIFA judges took those into account."

Preud'homme is also celebrating being named "The World's best Goalkeeper" for 1993/94 by the International Federation of Football Historians and Statistics and, at 34, seems to have silenced those who criticised his performances at Italia '90. He says: "My game has improved a lot over the past four years. In Italy I played poorly, and the reason was tension.

"Italia '90 was my first World Cup finals and I was obsessed with doing myself justice. To get ready for the tournament I spent hours watching videos of international football and I became so uptight.

"In the end, it was all too much and, frankly, I was over-prepared. In America I was far more relaxed. I'm a changed man these days."

Although one of the few goalkeepers to shine in the States, Preud'homme does not sneer at the blunders of some of his counterparts. Indeed, he has a theory about the soft goals conceded by the likes of Bonner, Azmi, Cordoba and Bell."

The ball used in America was responsible for many of the so-called errors," he insists. "It was very light and seemed to move quickly through the air.

"It wasn't easy to judge the trajectory of a cross or shot, and catching that ball was by no means straightforward.

"I was fortunate to practice with the new ball for two months before the event. Other keepers did not have such an opportunity.

"For every World Cup a new ball is created and each time it's lighter than the previous one. This is making a goalkeeper's job increasingly difficult."

Michel Preud'homme was born in the Liege suburb of Ougree, and signed for the city's leading club, Standard, at the age of five. He could not have chosen a better place to learn goalkeeping. Since the late 1950s Standard had produced a number of classy keepers such as Belgian internationals Jean Nicolay and Christian Piot, and Preud'homme was to develop along similar lines.

While still a teenager he established himself as a first-team regular and in May 1979 he won his first senior cap for Belgium, a 0-0 draw against Austria in a European Championship qualifier. A clean sheet on his national debut was an auspicious start, but it was not sufficient for Preud'homme to keep out Belgium's top keeper, Jean-Marie Pfaff, and he had to make do with a back-up role as his country finished runners-up at the 1980 European Championship.

International football was turning out to be far from happy for Preud'homme. In April 1981 he was called up to replace the injured Pfaff for a World Cup tie in France, but let himself down badly with a shaky display in a 3-2 defeat. Then, a year later, a damaged hand prevented him from going to the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

Meanwhile, life was sweet at club level. Preud'homme's brilliance helped Standard to the runners-up spot in the 1982 European Cup-winners Cup and he picked up Belgian Championship medals in 1982 and 1983.

Early in 1984, however, his career was stopped dead when it emerged that Standard had made sure of the 1981-82 title by bribing Waterschei to throw the final game of the season. As one of the 15 players and officials punished by the Belgian Federation, Preud'homme was suspended for a year and was forced to miss the 1984 European Championship.

His nightmare lasted longer than 12 months, because his replacement at Standard, Gilbert Bodart kept goal so well that Preud'homme was unable to regain his place when his ban ended. During the 1985-86 campaign Bodart and Preud'homme played on alternative weekends. But the experience did not work and in the summer of 1986 Preud'homme was off-loaded to Mechelen.

During the previous two seasons Preud'homme had played only 15 games and Belgium manager Guy Thys had ignored him when selecting his 1986 World Cup squad.

Now, however, things changed yet again. With Mechelen he was twice elected Footballer of the Year (1987 and 1989) and he made vital contributions to his club's 1987 domestic Cup win, European Cup-winners Cup and Supercup victories in 1988 and Belgian League title the following year.

He forced his way back into the national reckoning and now has 55 caps. After eight seasons starring for Mechelen, Preud'homme recently signed for Portuguese Champions Benfica, and he is looking forward to a fresh challenge.

"It's a big thrill to have joined one of Europe's most famous clubs," he says. "What's especially exciting is the prospect of taking part in the Champions League.

"I am 34, but age is all in the mind. I feel as young as ever. Without being pretentious, Benfica did not buy me because I'm over the hill."

NICK BIDWELL

Keeping the faith . . . Michel Preud'homme's performances in the USA made him the world's top keeper.

PROFILE
Michel Preud'homme
Benfica and Belgium
Born January 24, 1959
Previous Clubs Standard Liege, Mechelen
League debut (for Standard) v Molenbeek, February 1977, won 2-0
International debut v Austria, May 1979, drew 0-0
International caps 55
HONOURS
Belgian League 1982, 1983 (Standard Liege), 1989 (Mechelen)
Belgian Cup 1981 (Standard), 1987 (Mechelen)
European Cup-winners Cup 1988 (Mechelen)
European Supercup 1988
Belgian Footballer of the Year 1987, 1989

LIECHTENSTEIN

SCHAAN'S EXIT

THE amateurs from FC Schaan played the most important games in their history when they met Bulgarians Pirin Blagoevgrad in the Cup-winners Cup.

Despite heroics from goalkeeper Heeb, Pirin won both matches to qualify on a 4-0 aggregate.

Schaan bounced back from these defeats to win their first match in the East Swiss Regional League 2-0 away over Widnau.

In the I Liga, Vaduz disappointed their followers by going down to a 3-2 home defeat by promotion rivals Sursee. Both teams are hoping to challenge for a place in next season's National League B.

The Vaduz ground was deemed unsuitable for European Championship matches, and Liechtenstein's opening home Group 6 qualifier with Austria on September 7 has been moved to provincial Eschen-Mauren.

GRAEME CRAWFORD

LUXEMBOURG

SAME OLD STORY

THE 82nd Luxembourg season kicked off with defending champions Avenir Beggen defeating Jeunesse d'Esch 3-2.

The pre-season favourites, Spora, bore out that judgment by thrashing Swift Hesperange 6-1 away, and Dudelange won 7-0 at newly-promoted Wormldange, with Stephano Fanelli scoring four.

Once again this has turned out to be another disappointing campaign for all the Luxembourg club sides in Europe.

Beggen were destroyed by Turkish champions Galatasaray, 9-1 on aggregate. Grevenmacher went much the same way against Rosenborg, losing 8-1, and Dudelange found Ferencvaros far too tough, going down 12-1.

Clubs are not learning from previous mistakes, and the general belief that they cannot win matches is another major factor. Importing new coaches with fresh ideas could assist greatly.

The problems are not new, but solutions are still far away.

TIM BRICE

SWEDEN

Malmo climbing back

MALMO are steadily climbing up the Swedish rankings under coach Rolf Zetterlund.

The team are a mixture of young hopefuls and experienced old warhorses such as defenders Torbjorn Persson and Nicklas Nylen and Robert Prytz in midfield.

The jewel in Malmo's crown is striker Jorgen Pettersson, still only 18. He has scored seven times in the League and has been watched by a host of foreign clubs. The directors maintain that Pettersson will remain in Sweden for at least one year — they hope.

IFK Gothenburg are clear leaders, but have been accused of an ultra-cautious approach. To contain critics, coach Roger Gustafsson abandoned the traditional 4-4-2 for the game in Halmstad and pushed Jesper Blomqvist and Mikael Martinsson up to support Stefan Petterson. The result was an exciting 4-2 win.

IFK Norrkoping are stuck in a disappointing mid-table position. They failed to score in five matches out of seven, but then revived to crush Helsingborg 7-0.

Pressures are mounting on coach Soren Cratz, with rumours linking former national team supremo Olle Nordin with the club.

Helsingborg, with Roland Nilsson at right-back, have a new coach, Reine Almquist.

FINLAND

Martin starts at 57

TURKU club TPS pulled off an odd stunt by naming Martin Saarikangas, a chief executive of a shipbuilding company who sponsor the club, in their team for a League game against HJK Helsinki.

Although he lasted only three minutes, 57-year-old Saarikangas became the oldest player to appear in top-class football in Finland. He was delighted but others were not and even accused TPS of bringing the game into disrepute.

TPS, the Cup-holders, play the long-ball game, with English striker Stewart Beards prominent.

Haka, coached by Jukka Vakkila, made a major coup by signing Russians Oleg Ivanov and Valery Popovich from Ilves Tampere who could not afford to keep them.

Former national team coach Martti Kuusela has become coach of a Greek Second Division club, Proodeftiki. Kuusela was sacked by Hungary's Kispest-Honved last spring after leading them to the championship.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Going Greek . . . Marti Kuusela.

HOLLAND

Aad shuffles his cards

AAD DE MOS, chief coach of PSV Eindhoven, surprised many people in Dutch football by sitting in the dugout watching and waiting, rather than acting.

Despite the obvious problems facing the club, De Mos was in no hurry to play around in the transfer market. But that was last season.

Since then he has snapped up midfielders Luc Nilis from Anderlecht and Marciano Vink from Genoa, forward Boudewijn Pahlplatz from FC Twente, and Ronaldo, the "new Brazilian Pele", from Cruzeiro. But perhaps the most significant signings were those of goalkeepers Stanley Menzo from Ajax and Ronald Waterreus from Roda JC Kerkrade.

This could be described as the direct result of Hans Van Breukelen's retirement from international and club football.

On the other hand it is more likely that De Mos has been shuffling his cards in a clever way. Menzo is 30 and Waterreus 24.

Menzo has spent 14 months in the Ajax dugout and in the reserves, completely outside the Dutch national team.

PSV already had signed Waterreus, but De Mos could not forget his days as chief coach to Ajax. Menzo was then his goalkeeper. So Menzo gets a chance to make an important comeback. And, if it does not work out, there is the young Waterreus, in top form and ready and willing to become PSV's No. 1 keeper.

To his credit Menzo has never been one to shoot his mouth off. He merely admitted that he was disappointed when Ajax chief coach Louis Van Gaal told him that Edwin Van der Sar was his first-choice keeper.

There has been much shuffling of the PSV pack. Ronaldo (real name Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima) is a modest young star. He says: "People talk about me as a new Pele. As far as I am concerned I'm Ronaldo, and I stay that way."

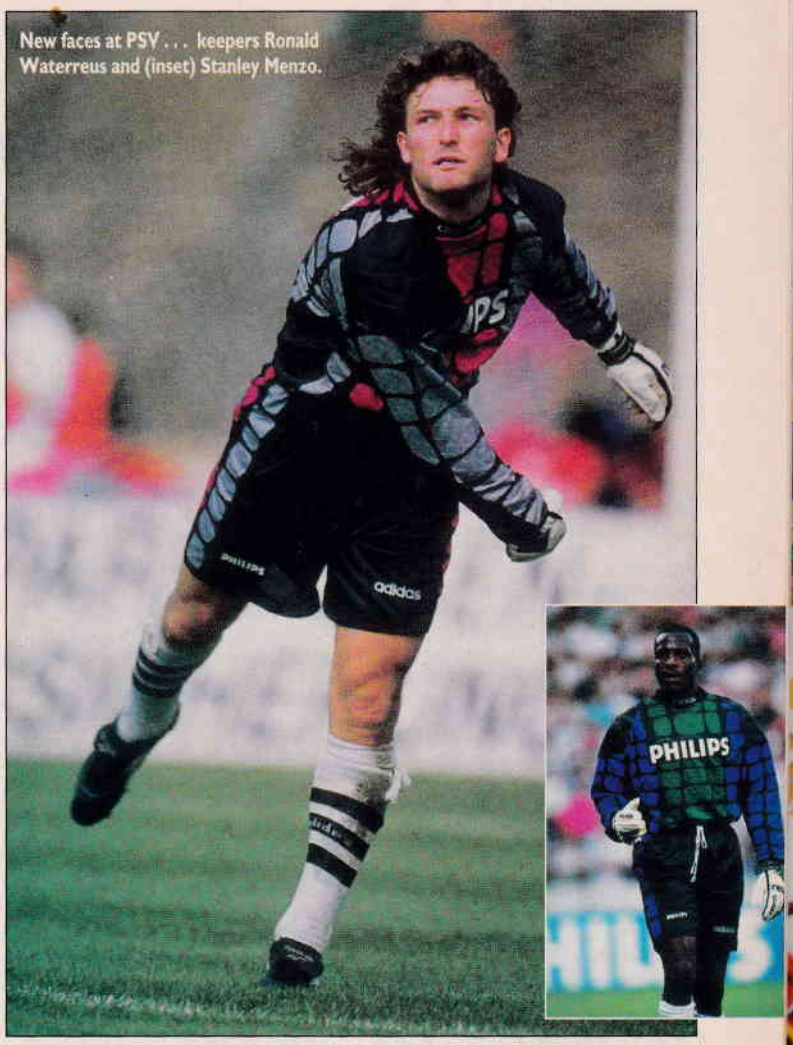
He is getting on with learning the language, and the way the Dutch play football. At least he has one colleague with similar problems — Marcos Vampeta, a 20-year-old defender, was signed from Brazilian club Vitoria.

Jari Litmanen, a Finland international, is 23. Officially, he is listed as a midfielder (but then so was Dennis Bergkamp). The Dutch top scorer last season, he also won the players' union award for best goal.

He could be a contender again this season, for during the Dutch Super Cup game, when Ajax hammered old rivals Feyenoord 3-0, Litmanen scored a blinder, again from around 25 yards, with a direct free-kick that swerved over the wall and ended up just inside the post.

Perhaps all those millions PSV paid for Ronaldo may not have been necessary. But the season has a long way to go.

ERIC NICHOLLS



New faces at PSV . . . keepers Ronald Waterreus and (inset) Stanley Menzo.

NORWAY

New role for Bratseth

RUNE BRATSETH, having crowned his remarkable period with Werder Bremen by winning his second German Cup Final, has decided enough is enough.

He has returned home to his beloved Trondheim, as manager of Rosenborg.

The lack of success in the US World Cup did not reduce any of this giant's reputation as an international footballer. He led his team by example and was Norway's outstanding player.

Bratseth stands out as the most prominent of Norway's exports. A couple of years after he was transferred from Rosenborg to Werder he was voted the best foreign player in the Bundesliga, and in 1988 he won his first Championship medal. Despite lucrative offers to move from Italian clubs he always stayed with Bremen.

When he decided it was time to come home in 1992 he signed an agreement with Rosenborg to become their manager, also dealing with the business side of the club. He postponed his return with one year when Werder again won the Championship.

Bratseth is now well established with Rosenborg and as the season draws to a close they are heading for a new Championship. Their consistency has been remarkable and they seem to have established themselves on a higher level than the other Norwegian clubs.

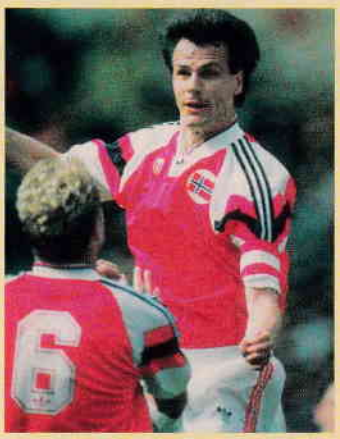
Team manager Nils Arne Eggen made a couple of changes in the squad before the season started. Erik Hoftun has fitted in well in defence and Harald Brattbakk has been scoring lots of goals after his spell with Bodo/Glimt.

Kent Bergersen's trickery has given the team a new dimension, Oyvind Leonhardsen's tireless running in midfield has been very valuable and World Cup player Jahn Ivar Jacobsen has scored some vital goals.

So manager Bratseth seems set to start his new job by helping Rosenborg to secure a new title. His immediate target will now be to develop the club into one capable of some success in the European competitions.

They have failed again and again to get beyond the first round proper, but Bratseth's wide experience and knowledge of European football should give the club a better platform on which to build.

SIGURD ODEGAARD



Back home . . . Rune Bratseth.

REPULIC OF IRELAND

ISM – That's the new International Soccer Museum

WHAT is thought to be the world's first International Soccer Museum, a showcase for the game's paraphernalia from around the globe, will open in Galway, the capital of the West of Ireland, in October.

The £300,000 development, expected to attract 50,000 visitors per year, has been designed to replicate a soccer s tadium, both internally and externally.

The 9,000 square feet will contain facilities on two floors, including a sports "funderland", cafe, clubrooms, a library and data base of world football teams.

Showcases will be packed with souvenirs of footballers, teams and managers. Video facilities will enable visitors to watch games from the past.

Programme fairs, hosting personal appearances and question-and-answer sessions by soccer personalities are among items planned.

This unique venture is the brainchild of Adrian Walsh, who grew up in England but was the trainer of the Galway United team who won the FAI Cup in 1991.

He toured extensively in the Middle East, Europe and the United States in the late 1970s, giving ball control exhibitions. He has met many of the great names, including Bobby Charlton, Pele, Stanley Matthews, Johan Cruyff and Franz Beckenbauer, and worked on soccer schools with Bobby Moore and Denis Law.

He and his partner, Gearoid O'Cosgraibhe, have accumulated a wealth of football items: boots, jerseys, programmes, annuals, lessons from the first soccer correspondence school conducted by Stanley Matthews, and autographed photographs of the Busby Babes and Pele.

The museum also acquired referee Ken Aston's 1966 World Cup blazer and one of winger Willie Morgan's Scottish caps and his 1974 World Cup jersey.

Walsh decided to set up the museum after a visit to the United States. "I went to a bar in New York and discovered that the place was a shrine to Formula One racing," he says.

"Car bodies were suspended from the ceiling and people sat in racing car seats at the bar. Customers were coming in just to buy postcards and souvenirs of the place. I decided to celebrate soccer in the same way."

He originally planned to locate his venture in England, when an English brewery company showed interest in financing it. "But my wife didn't want to leave Ireland. Now I'm glad we stayed here."

The Republic of Ireland team's success gave Walsh the incentive to progress. Some people wonder why he chose Galway as the location, but he says: "Why not? Ten years ago we would have been laughed at, but now, with the success of the Irish team, Ireland is an appropriate location for such a venture.

"The West of Ireland is safe, the people are friendly and the scenery is breathtaking," he says. "What more could soccer enthusiasts want?"

There are national soccer museums in some countries — the Soccer Hall of Fame in the US will be Galway's sister museum — but the Irish project is unique in that it is the first international soccer museum, Walsh stresses.

He believes that in addition to providing soccer fanatics with a fascinating insight into their heroes, this new enterprise will foster strong cultural ties between Ireland and other countries.

The museum is aiming for an international membership, cultivated through contacts with the 175 football associations affiliated to FIFA and by support clubs and international soccer tours.

The organisers believe that the phenomenal rise in the profile of the game in America and Japan, as well as in Europe, will further boost membership.

Walsh was particularly impressed by the generosity of the world's football greats, who gladly supplied him with cherished mementoes.

"Their generosity really touched me," he says. "They donated their most precious items to the museum. People, such as actor Ian McShane, who is an avid Manchester United fan, Cliff Jones of Spurs, Ron Atkinson and many more have donated souvenirs. Some even asked to attend the museum's opening.

"Nat Lofthouse, Tom Finney and Trevor Brooking have also helped out."

The museum has been recognised by FIFA and the Football Association of Ireland and thanks to his global soccer connections, Walsh is finding it easy to add to his vast selection of goods.

Even Pele's manager, Julio Mazzei, is helping him compile a Brazilian showcase complete with coveted items from Pele's private collection.

MARY O'CONNOR

Brazil may play in Dublin

THERE is a strong possibility that world champions Brazil will play in Dublin next year.

Newly-elected FAI president Louis Kilcoyne has friends in the Brazilian FA and a game between the Republic and Brazil at Lansdowne Road is likely.

When Kolcoyne was chairman of Shamrock Rovers he brought Brazil to Dublin in 1973 to play an All-Ireland selection, and League of Ireland teams have travelled to Brazil for friendlies.

Sunday football is finally on the way out. Thanks to money received from *Sky Sports,* most clubs have now installed floodlights and are opting for Friday or Saturday night fixtures to avoid a clash with live football from England.

The new kick-off times also suit junior footballers, who can go to a game on Friday or Saturday night and play for their own clubs on Sunday morning.

Fans must pay more to see the Boys in Green this season. The FAI has raised prices for the qualifying games in the European Championship, and the best seats at Lansdowne road will now cost £35. The cheapest seats, the "buckets" behind the goals, will be £15.

Joe Delaney, newly-elected FAI treasurer, says: "It's all about rising costs and having to make ends meet. Due to the all-seating requirement for competitive games, our capacity at Lansdowne has gone down from 49,000 to 34,000 and we have to generate revenue in some way."

Further bad news for the fans is that the FAI have changed suppliers, which naturally means a new strip.

The FAI will shortly launch a fund to help players in need. The idea comes from former internationals Terry Conroy and Tony Grealish, and will be officially launched before the game against Liechtenstein in Dublin on October 13.

One of the first to benefit from the scheme, 62-year-old former Everton and Stoke goalkeeper Jimmy O'Neill, is unemployed and needs heart surgery. O'Neill won 17 caps for the Republic.

Shamrock Rovers lost 7-0 to Gornik Zabrze in the first leg of their preliminary UEFA Cup game — their heaviest defeat in 37 years of European competition.

With Cork City going out to Slavia Prague in the preliminary round of the UEFA Cup, the League could lose one of its UEFA Cup places.

SEAN CREEDON

PORTUGAL

Agents? No thanks!

AGENTS had a busy summer in Portugal trying to find places for players — many of them English.

The use of such middle men came under criticism when one, claiming to be acting on Sporting Lisbon's behalf, approached Aston Villa about striker Dalian Atkinson.

Villa chairman Doug Ellis said: "I only deal on a club-to-club basis." End of story.

Nothing materialised elsewhere, either, as far as "dead wood" English players were concerned. Even poorer provincial clubs were not interested in buying, although some English clubs showed interest in taking a Portuguese or two.

The Italians, of course, were active in the market, with Sousa going from Sporting Lisbon to Juventus, Rui Costa leaving Benfica for Fiorentina, and Parma taking Fernando Couto from FC Porto, although coach Bobby Robson had not wanted the deal to go through.

Porto won the Supercup, beating much-changed Benfica 1-0. Only four of last season's regulars remain — Veloso, Helder, Paneira and Joao Pinto — and even Toni has gone, after 25 years in varying capacities at the Stadium of Light.

Toni, having helped Benfica to the most important championship of recent times, and entry into the Champions League, was deemed surplus to the board's requirements, and replaced by the well-travelled Artur Jorge, most recently coach to Paris Saint Germain.

Jorge likes the Brazilian style — who does not? — and he has brought Edilson, Clovis and Paulao to join him, plus celebrated Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia from AS Roma.

There are several changes, too, at Sporting, where the club aim to recover from last season's painful events. Everything seemed possible, but nothing was won.

Carlos Queiroz has been given more money to strengthen his squad, and has brought back Oceano from Real Sociedad as well as recruiting Marco Aurelio, Sa Pinto, Chiquinho Conde and a Moroccan, Naybet.

The most unusual signing of them all, however, was that of Nigerian striker Emanuel Amunike, sold to Sporting by order of FIFA.

While still registered with Egyptian club Zamalek, Amunike, 22, had signed a contract with Duisberg of Germany, before going to the United States with his country's World Cup squad,.

Zamalek claimed not all the transfer conditions had been met and wanted to sell the player to Sporting. Amunike travelled to Lisbon and Duisberg could not get him to go to Germany.

All sides then turned to FIFA for arbitration, and the result was that Sporting got their man, Duisberg had to pay Zamalek $800,000 for him, and Sporting had to pay Duisberg $1million. So the Germans made a profit without Amunike kicking a ball for them.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Amunike . . . snapped up by Sporting.

DENMARK

Silkeborg out but not down

NEW Danish champions Silkeborg fell at the first hurdle in the Champions Cup, after a valiant battle against Kiev Dynamo for a place in the Champions League.

The little provinical club, title holders for the first time in their history, drew the first leg 0-0 at home to Dynamo, and were convinced that striker Soren Frederiksen was denied a blatant penalty.

Silkeborg lost the return leg 3-1, but were in the hunt right until the last minute, attacking for the equaliser at 2-1 down which would have taken them through on away goals.

But both of Denmark's clubs in the UEFA Cup's preliminary round moved safely through. FC Copenhagen had a huge scare losing their first leg 1-0 at home to Finnish minnows FC Jazz, but made amends with a superb 4-0 victory in the away match.

OB Odense easily disposed of Estonia's Flora Tallinn, winning the first leg 3-0 at home and the away clash 1-0 for good measure.

Silkeborg had won the title in dramatic circumstances, when they beat AaB Aalborg on the final day of last season, 2-0 in front of a record 11,000 crowd at their tiny stadium.

Closest rivals FC Copenhagen, who needed to win their last match to secure the championship, lost 3-2 to OB. They had led 2-1 until 55 minutes, but then conceded two goals to let the title slip away. It was no more than Silkeborg deserved for playing the best football of the campaign, inspired by top-scorer Frederiksen who finished with 18 goals.

It was the climax of a remarkable rise from obscurity for the little club who had never won anything in Danish football before. In 1977 they were thrown out of the league for financial irregularities, and stayed in the non-league Danmarksserien for five years.

Then a campaign was launched to revive the club with the slogan: "Let's get Silkeborg back on the pools coupons."

It was the height of ambition at one stage. But gradually they moved through the divisions until promotion to the top league for the first time in their history in 1987. Viggo Jensen was the coach then, and he helped them survive a relegation play-off in 1991 before giving way to veteran Swedish trainer Bo Johansson.

He built a team with no stars, but which had huge spirit and a will to win. Even the sale of Danish international defender Jakob Kjeldbjerg to Chelsea at the beginning of last season failed to halt the inexorable rise and rise of Silkeborg.

Now they have the difficult task of defending the title. They began with a 2-2 draw at home to Lyngby, while AaB got off to a flier, beating FC Copenhagen 5-2 at home on the opening day.

The Danish national side warmed up for their European Championship defence with a sketchy 2-1 home victory against Finland in a friendly. The Scottish connection of Brian Laudrup (Rangers) and new boy Morten Wieghorst (Dundee) scored the second-half goals after Finland had taken a shock lead.

JIM HOLDEN

TURKEY

Merry Christmas for Stauche

TURKEY's Christmas came early for Gintaras Stauche, the Lithuanian international goalkeeper who had been in Russia with Moscow Spartak.

Stauche, who will be 25 on Christmas Eve, has signed a two-year contract with Turkish champions Galatasaray, and will receive £100,000.

The move followed a decline in the form shown by veteran international keeper Demirbas Hayrettin, who had a particularly bad match when Gala lost 4-3 to Fenerbahce in the pre-season Sportswriters Cup.

Gala manager Reinhart Saftig had problems elsewhere in the early games as he built up for the Champions League and another assault on the domestic honours.

German defenders Falco and Stumpf have gone and not been properly replaced, and Tugay's switch to libero is depriving the midfield. Arif is being used mainly as a second-half substitute, and Kubilay and Hakan have not been at their best so far.

Some good results in the League and an easy win over Avenir Beggen in the Champions Cup preliminary round cannot disguise the fact that Gala are not what they were. The second leg had to be played in Izmir because UEFA punished Gala for missile-throwing by fans who had travelled to Luxembourg, where they were angered by some mysterious referring decisions.

Injuries have hit two other clubs. Besiktas even lost manager Christoph Daum, who will be unable to train for two months after hurting an ankle.

New goalkeeper Aumann from Bayern Munich broken an ankle in a friendly game, and will be out for two months, and deputy Fevsi injured a shoulder.

Gala's new star. . . Gintaras Stauche

Fenerbahce suffered even worse when Danish striker Pingel tore knee ligaments. He will be out for most of the season, and the club moved hurriedly to sign Fayyaz from Besiktas as replacement. He had scored 170 League goals in 14 years with Besiktas.

FC Turan of Azerbaijan were no match for Fenerbahce in the UEFA Cup, and the 7-0 aggregate win opened the way for a tie against Cannes.

The national team beat Macedonia 2-0 in a friendly international, but coach Fatih Terim was far from satisfied. He said: "Our aim is to get some points from our opening European Championship tie in Hungary. We follow that with three successive home games, and we must take advantage of that."

Former international Tanju Colak must serve his 22-month jail sentence, for illegally importing a foreign car, after being arrested in Macedonia and deported.

So a splendid career, liberally laced with goals, ends in degrading fashion: Turkish regulations forbid anyone caught smuggling from playing professionally.

HASAN CEMALI

MALTA

Busuttil's back home

ACE international striker Carmel Busuttil is returning home to Maltese football, after seven years abroad.

He had one year with Italian regional side Verbania, and six with Belgian club Genk. Now he has agreed to join Sliema Wanderers for a Maltese record transfer fee of £70,000.

"I cannot hide the fact that I felt excited during the negotiations," he said. "I thought that Genk could have been more rigid as regards my transfer, because they wanted me to stay, but finally I'm so pleased that the deal went through."

Hibernians and Floriana also were offering Malta's best-ever footballer favourable terms, but 30-year-old Busuttil says: "The reason I chose Sliema will remain a secret."

Valletta captured the first honour of the new season when they won the Lowenbrau Cup — the annual pre-season triangular tournament between the three local clubs participating in European competition.

Floriana followed by winning the other traditional pre-season tournament, the Super 5 competition.

Champions Hibernians have yet to move into top gear, and lacked ideas in their opening pre-season outings, although they have been strengthened by the arrival of international midfielder Silvio Vella from Rabat Ajax, midfielder Godwin Stivala from St George's and striker Konrad Sultana of Zurrieq.

Floriana have engaged the 24-year-old former OFK Belgrade striker Igor Stefanovic and Valletta have signed defender Darren Debono from Sliema, together with 17-year-old Ivan Woods.

Sliema are still the talking point. Besides signing Busuttil, club chairman Joe Sullivan is still negotiating for the possible transfer of former Floriana player-coach Mark Miller.

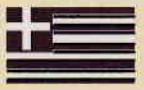
Hibernians, back in Europe after an absence of four years, lost 3-1 in Byelorussia to Minsk Dinamo in the preliminary round of the UEFA Cup. They went ahead after six minutes through George Lawrence and still held their lead in the 69th minute, but Dinamo equalised and went on to secure victory.

Valletta, in the same competition, did even worse, losing 6-2 at home to Rapid Bucharest.

In the Cup-winners Cup, Floriana were held to a 2-2 home draw by Irish side Sligo Rovers. Stefanovic scored both Floriana's goals.

The national side, playing their first friendly of the new season, lost 1-0 to Armenia in Yerevan, then managed a 1-1 draw in Tbilisi against Georgia.

DOMENICO AQUILINA



GREECE

AEK splash out

AEK ATHENS have spent around £22 million on new players in the hope that the club will go far in European competition.

Coach Dusan Bayevic's squad certainly made a good start, knocking out Scotland's Rangers in the Champions League qualifying round with a 2-0 win at home and a 1-0 triumph in Glasgow.

AEK have won the title three years in a row and want a first European crown for a Greek club. Ilias Atmatsidis, who kept goal when Greece lost to Bulgaria in the World Cup, says: "We need to show that Greece's performance in the US was not a indication of our abilities. AEK making it to the Champions League is sort of revenge for those three defeats."

Atmatsidis has been criticised for the defeat against Bulgaria, but explains: "No one person was responsible for our poor showing. But we should forget about those performances and look to the future. At least we gained a lot of experience."

Most of the money spent by AEK during the summer went to get Panathinaikos striker Dimitrios Saravakos, who scored both goals against Rangers at home, and midfielder Christos Kostis from Iraklis.

They will help to fill the void left by the League's leading scorer, Alexis Alexandris, who has gone to Olympiakos. So have Serbian Ilia Ivic and Nigerian Rashidi Yekini.

Panathinaikos won the Super Cup 3-0 over AEK in the battle of League and Cup winners from last season, in front of 20,000 fans. They also played well in Italy (including a 0-0 draw with Milan) in pre-season action and will rival both AEK and Olympiakos for the championship again.

Soccer officials are hopeful that the addition of top players this season will help attendance figures to rise. They have been dropping from an average of 11,250 in 1988 to last season's dismal 3,680 per match in the First Division, despite a record-breaking 874 goals in 306 games.

The First Division kicks off with nine Greek and nine foreign coaches and 52 foreign players — 24 Serbs, five Brazilians, four Poles, three Czechs, two Chileans, two Bulgarians, two Albanians and one each from Argentina, Slovenia, Romania, Cameroon, Macedonia, Georgia, Nigeria, South Africa, Montenegro and Croatia.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

GERMANY

Bayern and Werder are turned over

EVEN BEFORE the 32nd Bundesliga season got under the way, German football experienced two of the biggest shocks in history when both champions Bayern Munich and Cup-holders Werder Bremen were knocked out in the first round of the DFB Cup by amateur sides.

Bayern's star-studded outfit lost 1-0 to little TSV Vestenbergsgreuth, and Bremen were humiliated 2-1 ironically by Bayern's amateur XI.

German football, perhaps like no other in Europe, is littered with sensational Cup defeats of the big guns. In each of the past three years a lower division club reached the final — Second Division Hanover won the trophy in 1992 — and last year even the amateurs of Hertha Berlin got into the final.

Certainly the numbing setbacks of Bayern and Werder sent shock waves through German football.

Bayern can blame the over-ambitious programme of 17 pre-season friendlies for the lacklustre display, but they bounced back in the League with a 3-1 win over prompted VfL Bochum which silenced — at least temporarily — the criticism of their new Italian manager, Giovanni Trapattoni.

Fears that the national team's World Cup fiasco would lead to a slump in attendances have proved groundless.

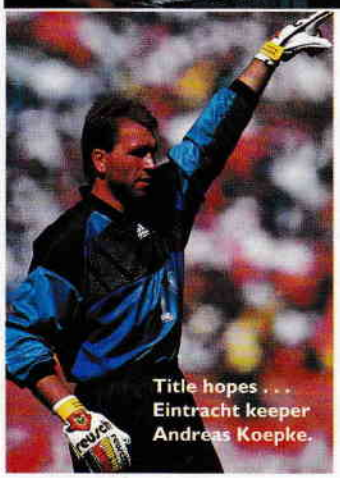
The chairman of the Management Committee, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, predicted confidently: "I don't think that the World Cup will have any bearing on the interest in the club competitions. When we won the World Cup in 1990 there was no significant rise in attendances and now there shouldn't be a drop. The clubs have strengthened their ranks and the fans have reacted positively."

Mayer-Vorfelder's optimism is underlined by the remarkable run on tickets. Over 173,000 season tickets have been sold, 38,000 more than last year. Borussia Dortmund, with a German record 28,500, and Kaiserslautern (23,100) led the way, and even modest Freiburg disposed of 12,000.

Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness maintains: "Our football is solid and healthy. Gate receipts, sponsorship and television provide the main source of income, but promotions, merchandising sales, catering and the European competitions also ensure lucrative revenue."

The 18 Bundesliga clubs have surpassed last season's total available funds by 26 per cent. And thus they were able to invest a massive £40million on new players. The return of several exiles, according to German experts, will contribute greatly to the continuing boom at the gates. In the past three years nine internationals came back from Italy alone. The latest three arrivals are all well-known midfielders: Andy Moller, who left Juventus for Borussia Dortmund, where he previously played (1987-90), Thomas Hassler from AS Roma to Karlsruhe, and the controversial Stefan Effenberg, loaned out by Borussia Monchengladbach from Fiorentina.

Karlsruhe's team chief, Winfried Schafer, describes Hassler's move for £2.4million as "the greatest coup in the club's history". KSC now hope to sell a record 12,000 season tickets.



Title hopes . . . Eintracht keeper Andreas Koepke.

Back Home . . . Thomas Hassler, and (below inset) Stefan Effenburg.

On paper, the most powerful team should be Bayern Munich. The defending champions also report signings such as French striker Jean-Pierre Papin (ex-Milan), Swiss World Cup midfielder Alain Sutter (from Nurnberg) and Germany's current best goalkeeper, Oliver Kahn (formerly Karlsruhe). But Trapattoni doesn't speak the language and his ideas on tactics don't tally with those taught in the Bundesliga.

Bayern, automatically qualified for the Champions League, expect a bonanza of possibly £8million — if they do well. They hope to redeem themselves after their failure in their last Champions Cup Final appearance, against FC Porto in 1987. And it is 11 years since a German club (Hamburg SV) won the most prestigious international title.

Their biggest threat at home could come from last season's runners-up, Kaiserslautern, who have five newcomers, admittedly not all top-class material, and from Borussia Dortmund, who apart from Moller also signed Brazilian centre back Julio Cesar from Juventus.

The third contenderc could be Eintracht Frankfurt, who snapped up Nurnberg's international keeper, Andreas Kopke, among others.

New team chief Jupp Heynckes, after a fairly successful spell in Spain with Athletic Bilbao, is yearning to show his adaptability in the Bundesliga.

Hack's men are heroes

THE name of TSV Vestenbergsgreuth probably will haunt Bayern Munich for all time.

TSV, a modest club from one of four regional 18-team leagues playing in the so-called Regionalliga Sud (South), are strictly amateur, yet their collection of insurance salesmen, students, policemen and a baker put out mighty Bayern in the first round of the German Cup, by 1-0.

Four years ago Bayern also crashed out of the competition against an amateur outfit, from the small town of Weinheim. Now the Bundesliga's most expensive team faltered against a side from a Bavarian village of 390 inhabitants.

None of the players lives in this hamlet; their homes are some 30 to 40 miles away. The most prominent building in Vestenbergsgreuth is a tea factory owned by Helmut Hack, who employs 500 men and is the club's president and benefactor.

Remarkably, TSV play in a ground which holds 6,000, usually in front of some 1,000 fans, but they switched the Bayern tie to the near-50,000 capacity Franken-Stadium in Nuremberg, and were accompanied by 2,000 vociferous supporters in the crowd of 24,200.

As contracted amateurs their players are allowed to earn up to £2,000 a month from soccer.

Team manager Paul Hesselbach, a former goalkeeper with Borussia Munchengladbach, announced confidently: "We are not travelling to Nuremberg to lose." And president Hack agreed: "We've got a chance. We won't be playing with trembling knees."

After the "greatest day in the club's history", as everybody was crowing, the two chiefs were lost for words.

Captain Werner Pjeufer, the only player with Bundesliga experience and now a policeman, mocked the Bayern stars by saying: "Their clumsiness surprised me. We train only three or four times a week, but we looked the better team."

Bayern's management team were shattered. Coach Giovanni Trapattoni admitted: "We are all very disappointed, but we didn't deserve to win. We fought with great spirit, but apparently have not yet adapted to the tactical reorganisation."

General manager Uli Hoeness was flabbergasted. "I don't know why this happened", was all he could say.

There are reasons one could put forward for this and similar Cup shocks. The Germans allow only 36 full-time professional clubs, who operate mostly with small squads. There are over 4.5 million footballers registered with the DFB (FA), so the standard of amateur football is exceptionally high.

Furthermore, the pros invariably underestimate the "hobby kickers", as they call them. But many of those amateurs rise above themselves trying to attract the attention of the big clubs.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

SWITZERLAND

Miserable start for Servette

ONLY ten days after the World Cup Final, the Swiss championship began with great hopes that, as in America, the fans would see open, attractive football, plenty of goals and exciting matches.

But the plan to introduce three points for a win has been shelved for the time being. According to FIFA the system, so successful in a number of countries, will become the norm worldwide in the 1995-96 season.

The title favourites for 1994/95 are the holders, Servette Geneva, and Grasshopper Zurich.

Both lost valuable players — Servette were compelled to release internationals Christophe Ohrel and Marco Grassi to French club Rennes, while the Hoppers reluctantly parted with Brazilian striker Giovane Elber, who joined Germany's VfB Stuttgart. His place has been taken by the Argentinian-born Nestor Subiat, now a Swiss international.

Servette started miserably in the Champions Cup preliminary round, when they lost 5-2 on aggregate to Romania's Steaua Bucharest.

That could have instant repercussions, for talented forward Oliver Neuville, who has a German passport, and is keen to play in the Bundesliga.

A remarkable transfer roundabout affected Aarau, the 1993 champions. They engaged 11 new players, while 10 left. No other top-class club experienced such a turnover. Now Aarau have the youngest team in the National League A, average age 23.

New Grasshopper . . . Nestor Subiat.

But the modest provincials, who surprisingly clinched a UEFA Cup place, are worried that they may not reach the championship pool.

Manager Rolf Fringer says: "I am concerned that this untried team could be swept aside in the qualifying stage."

Attendances have been steadily falling in recent years— last year's average was 5,504 — but are now on the up. Gates of over 10,000 have become more common than of late.

AUSTRIA

Coordes causes a clash

AUSTRIA began the new season with modest expectations for improvement in standards. Last year's exploits of champions Austria Salzburg, who unexpectedly reached the UEFA Cup Final, could serve as an inspiration to the rest.

Salzburg, of course, are title favourites, while Cup-winners FK Austria and FC Tirol/Innsbruck also fancy their chances.

FK's coach, the German Egon Coordes, however, had arguments with the media and some club directors when he disclosed his plans to convert the team of technicians into a bunch of fighters. The Austrianer began with three draws and dropped to mid-table, while the "dwarves" from Sturm Graz and the other rank outsiders, Vorwarts Steyr, were sharing the lead.

Coordes was forced to reinstate international striker Andreas Ogris, temporarily banished to the reserves for breaking curfew, and the chief upset his hosts when he declared in a radio interview that, for social reasons, he regretted moving to Vienna.

Meanwhile Salzburg's manager, the Croatian Otto Baric, had lost the experienced Heribert Weber, retired from active football and plunged into the transfer market. He hired two of his compatriots, Mladenovic and Kocijan, plus the Austrians Hasenhuttl and Hiden.

The biggest threat to Salzburg could come from Tirol, under their new team chief, the redoubtable Hans Krankl. He also engaged four new men, Germans Schwabl and Sane and Austrians Cerny and Stoger.

OK with FK . . . Andreas Ogris.

The new acquisitions may need time to find their feet in this set-up, so different from that in Germany.

After a promising start the Tyroleans lost at home to unfashionable Steyr and were booed off by the disappointed audience.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

WEEKEND

GERMAN SUPER CUP

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Nerlinger 57)
WERDER BREMEN 3 (Bestchastnikh 2, Schulz 104, Rufer 116). Aet.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

WEEKEND

GERMAN CUP — 1ST ROUND

SV MEPPEN 0
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1

SC GROSSROSSEIN 1
HAMBURG 5

STUTTGARTER KICKERS 3
FREIBURG 1

SV LINX 1
SCHALKE 2

GEORGSMARIENHUTTE 1
KARLSRUHE 6

BAYERN MUNICH AMATEURS 2
WERDER BREMEN 1

ROT-WEISS ERFURT 0
DUISBURG 2 (aet)

FC REMSCHEID 0
KOLN 7

GREIFSWALDER 1
BORUSSIA MG 4

ROT-WEISS ESSEN 0
BOCHUM 2 (aet)

CARL-ZEISS JENA 0
VfB STUTTGART 2

BRANDENBURG 0
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 11

FC ALTONA '93 0
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2

VESTENBERGSGREUTH 1
BAYERN MUNICH 0

HALLESCHER FC 1
BAYER UERDINGEN 4

SG EGELSBACH 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 2

GOTTINGEN 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 6

S. LEIPZIG 0
1860 MUNICH 0 *(1860 Munich won on pens)*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

WEEKEND

SCHALKE 1 (A. Muller 12)
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Herrlich 57). **Att:** 68,000.

VfB STUTTGART 2 (Elber 49, Bobic 90)
HAMBURG 1 (Sporl pen 72). **Att:** 32,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 73). **Att:** 21,900.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Ekstrom 3)
WERDER BREMEN 1 (Bode 35). **Att:** 22,200.

BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Scholl 69, Helmer 71, Nerlinger 74)
BOCHUM 1 (Aden 88). **Att:** 54,000.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Knup 34, Reich 64)
FREIBURG 0. **Att:** 34,000.

BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Bittengel 68)
DUISBURG 1 (Weidemann 33). **Att:** 26,112.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 4 (Riedle 44, Chapuisat 45, Franck 76, Zorc 90)
1860 MUNICH 0. **Att:** 42,800.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
KOLN 0. **Att:** 44,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

MIDWEEK

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz pen 82)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Yeboah 78). **Att:** 38,000.

1860 MUNICH 0
VfB STUTTGART 2 (Elber 51, Bobic 68). **Att:** 43,000.

FREIBURG 5 (Spanring 11, Kohl 17, Cardoso 19, 58, Heinrich 68)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Ziege 33). **Att:** 18,000.

KOLN 1 (Labbadia 18)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 6 (Moller 12, 22, 36, Sammer 73, Zorc 81, Povlsen 84). **Att:** 52,000.

BOCHUM 2 (Aden 31, Van Ahlen 75)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0. **Att:** 20,000.

HAMBURG 0
BAYER UERDINGEN 0. **Att:** 28,000.

DUISBURG 2 (Kozle 49, Osthoff 84)
SCHALKE 2 (Herzog 38, Anderbrugge 62). **Att:** 28,000.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Hochstatter 59, Herrlich 69)
KARLSRUHE 2 (Fink 65, 70). **Att:** 31,000.

WERDER BREMEN 3 (Bode 18, 43, Rufer 33)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Dooley 16, Sergio pen 52). **Att:** 27,000.

WEEKEND

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Dittgen 47)
FREIBURG 3 (S. Muller 13, Spies 64, Cardoso 80). **Att:** 16,500.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Chapuisat 40, Zorc pen 74)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 82). **Att:** 42,800.

BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Kreuzer 22, Nerlinger 33, Matthaus 86)
BORUSSIA MG 0. **Att:** 57,000.

KARLSRUHE 4 (Tarant 22, 70, Knup 27, Wuck 71)
DUISBURG 1 (Kozle 38). **Att:** 25,000.

SCHALKE 0
HAMBURG 1 (Baron 79). **Att:** 28,200.

BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (Laessig 28)
1860 MUNICH 1 (Lilienberg 60). **Att:** 10,500.

VfB STUTTGART 2 (Labbadia 18 og, Bobic 36)
KOLN 2 (Kogl pen 24, Labbadia 89). **Att:** 30,000.

WERDER BREMEN 3 (Basler 69, 81, 89)
BOCHUM 0. **Att:** 22,400.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Schuster 16, Kirsten 39, Sergio 66, Voller 90)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 23,000.

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	4	3	1	0	10	4	7
Bor. Dortmund	4	3	0	1	13	6	6
Bayern Munich	4	3	0	1	10	6	6
Karlsruhe	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
VfB Stuttgart	4	2	1	1	8	6	5
Hamburg	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Kaiserslautern	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
Leverkusen	4	2	0	2	9	5	4
Freiburg	4	2	0	2	9	7	4
Schalke	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Ein. Frankfurt	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Borussia Mg	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Koln	4	1	2	1	5	8	4
Bayer Uerdingen	4	0	3	1	2	4	3
VfL Bochum	4	1	0	3	4	9	2
MSV Duisburg	4	0	2	2	4	10	2
Dyn. Dresden	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
1860 Munich	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

FERNANDEZ

learns the hard way at PSG

Weah . . . struggling.

Ginola . . . staying put.

Fernandez . . . stuttering start.

BEING manager of Paris St Germain is not quite as easy, Luis Fernandez is finding out, as being one of the star players, as once he was.

Fernandez moved from Cannes to take over from Artur Jorge, who had been highly successful domestically although often criticised for his dour methods, and he and his team breezed through their first European game against Vac FC-Samsung, modest Hungarian opposition, but they made an oddly stuttering start in the French Championship.

The fact that George Weah stayed, when it seemed towards the end of last season that he would be on his way, appeared a mixed blessing indeed.

Weah had an atrocious match at Le Havre, where he looked the poorest player in a PSG team held to a goalless draw. He was somewhat better when Lens were beaten 1-0 at home in the next match, but almost as bad when PSG crashed 2-0 at Strasbourg. Even the inclusion of Brazil's Rai early in the second half could not save them.

To be fair, Rai's fellow Brazilian, Valdo, such a creative force last season, was not on parade in those opening games, while PSG have made no secret of the fact that qualification for European competition proper was the chief priority.

From that point of view, the easy win over Vac mattered a lot more than that League defeat, and another stumble at home to Sochaux, three days later. And Fernandez might point to the absence of another Brazilian, Ricardo Gomes, who had to miss the World Cup through injury.

At least David Ginola seems full of optimism. That quality will be needed in Europe, where such powerful opponents as Bayern Munich and Moscow Spartak stand forbiddingly in the way.

"Me," said Ginola just before the season started, "I see *la vie en rose*." During the summer, he admits, the absence of France from the World Cup cast a shadow over his holiday. He very nearly left Paris at the end of last season, and when he talks of this season there is nothing to indicate that he will remain when it's over.

Ginola admits that all seemed set for him to join Milan. Then, he says, the Yugoslav international, Dejan Savicevic, announced that should Ginola come, he would go.

"He is a little bit Berlusconi's pet," says Ginola, with some bitterness, "so the affair was blocked . . . finally, it just came down to the wish of a single player."

Easy to understand Ginola's disappointment, hard to convince him that it may well turn out for the best. Like Jean-Pierre Papin, last season, he might have been spending far more time in the stands, not even on the bench, than on the field. But Ginola insists that he was only half convinced about leaving for Italy, and that he's happy now.

"There is Luis and my team-mates. But it is not too late. If I have another good season, a good Champions League, there won't be any problem next June."

There has been an exodus of French players. Basile Boli, for one. In the end he found his way to Rangers, though he, like Ginola, felt he would be on his way to Italy. Just as with Ginola, it did not happen.

Boli seems to have gone a good deal closer to a move to Lazio, even going on tour with them to South America, where he headed a spectacular goal. But Zdenek Zeman, the new manager, wanted his Foggia defender, Argentina's Jose Chamot, to follow him to Rome, so the door was closed to Boli. He could have gone to Spurs, until the FA inflicted their original punishment of a dozen points deducted, and Boli decided against North London.

Rangers, however, prevailed. Boli was impressed by the chairman, David Murray, and signed, though he admits he will miss Marseille, and still has a soft spot for Bernard Tapie.

Didier Deschamps was lucky enough to get a transfer to Juventus, where he has had a warm welcome. "I'm no Platini," he said on arriving. "I score an average of about one goal per season."

Deschamps places emphasis on the exodus of Marseille players to Italy: he says that in organisation, international experience and "experience of outside pressures," Marseille are the French club who most closely resemble an Italian club.

There, he says, French players can learn to be "competitive and not to be distracted." With special reference, of course, to the way France were bounced out of the World Cup.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	7	5	2	0	12	6	17
Cannes	7	5	1	1	13	4	16
Lyon	7	4	2	1	8	7	14
St Etienne	7	3	3	1	13	5	12
Lens	7	3	3	1	11	5	12
Strasbourg	7	3	2	2	12	7	11
Nice	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Paris SG	7	3	2	2	5	4	11
Bordeaux	7	3	2	2	6	7	11
Martigues	7	3	2	2	8	10	11
Sochaux	7	3	1	3	9	6	10
Rennes	7	2	3	2	7	10	9
Lille	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
Auxerre	7	1	4	2	6	8	7
Bastia	7	2	1	4	5	8	7
Monaco	7	2	1	4	4	7	7
Metz	7	1	2	4	4	8	5
Montpellier	7	1	1	5	5	13	4
Le Havre	7	0	4	3	5	10	4
Caen	7	1	0	6	3	8	3

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 31

SOCHAUX 2 (Mendy 82, Cuervo 90)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 6,000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Senac 73)
NICE 0. **Att:** 20,000.

MONTPELLIER 0
MARTIGUES 1 (Benarbia 42). **Att:** 9,131.

MONACO 0
METZ 1 (Lang 19). **Att:** 5,500.

LENS 1 (Meyrieu 85)
LILLE 1 (Garcia 73 pen). **Att:** 26,639.

ST ETIENNE 1 (G Passi 38 pen)
RENNES 1 (Denis 14). **Att:** 12,781.

STRASBOURG 1 (Sauzee 40)
AUXERRE 1 (Diomede 46). **Att:** 25,049.

NANTES 1 (Loko 52)
LYON 1 (Maurice 53). **Att:** 15,000.

LE HAVRE 0
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 11,000.

CANNES 0
BASTIA 0. **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

MIDWEEK

AUXERRE 1 (Soler 3)
NANTES 2 (Ouedec 37, Loko 50). **Att:** 9,000.

MONTPELLIER 0
BORDEAUX 1 (Dugarry 33). **Att:** 14,104.

MARTIGUES 1 (Chantreuil 23)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Wohlfarth 6). **Att:** 6,000.

RENNES 0
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

NICE 1 (De Neef 90)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 7,968.

PARIS SG 1 (Nouma 40)
LENS 0. **Att:**27,300.

LILLE 1 (Hitoto 27)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 5,500.

CAEN 0
CANNES 1 (Micoud 30). **Att:** 17,023.

LYON 3 (N'Gotty 67, Maurice 74, Debbah 89)
MONACO 1 (Scifo 59). **Att:** 23,000.

METZ 1 (Kastendeuch pen 66)
BASTIA 2 (Burnier 22, Laurent pen 54). **Att:** 12,932.

WEEKEND

ST ETIENNE 4 (Camara 8, 88, Wohlfarth 58, 76)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 11,017.

BORDEAUX 1 (Bancarel 43)
MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 20). **Att:** 20,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia pen 63)
NICE 1 (Sandjak 81 pen). **Att:** 7,982.

LENS 5 (Oruma 14, Tiehi 28, 74, Boli 58, Meyrieu 88)
RENNES 0. **Att:** 17,000.

SOCHAUX 3 (Croce 18, Mendy 24, Prat 79)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 4,000.

STRASBOURG 2 (Leboeuf pen 25, Gravelaine 37)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 24,951.

NANTES 2 (Ferri 34, Ouedec 76)
CAEN 1 (Marraud 2 o.g.). **Att:** 16,000.

MONACO 0
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 10,000.

CANNES 1 (Charvet 37)
METZ 0. **Att:** 6,500.

BASTIA 0
LYON 1 (Delamontagne 55). **Att:** 5,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

CAEN 0
MONACO 1 (Blondeau 25). **Att:** 15,368.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Sanchez 24)
LENS 2 (Tiehi 43, Sikora 87). **Att:** 8,000.

MARTIGUES 2 (Tholot 40, Bertilsson 43)
LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia 12). **Att:** 3,500.

ST ETIENNE 2 (Blanc 33, Camara 61)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 16,080.

RENNES 2 (Le Pen 42, Grassi 68)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 13,587.

NICE 2 (Sandjak 19, Nagbe 70)
CANNES 1 (Durix 43). **Att:** 10,000.

PARIS SG 1 (Ginola 67 pen)
SOCHAUX 1 (Baudry 90). **Att:** 24,000.

LILLE 1 (Garcia 33 pen)
NANTES 2 (Loko 37, Ouedec 56 pen). **Att:** 7,500.

AUXERRE 2 (Verlaat 68, Diomede 82)
BASTIA 1 (Ziani 43). **Att:** 6,000.

LYON 1 (Gava 83)
METZ 0. **Att:** 23,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

NANTES 1 (Loko 20)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 20,000.

BORDEAUX 2 (Valdeir 22, Zidane 32)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Wohlfahrt 40). **Att:** 25,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia pen 84)
MONTPELLIER 2 (Divert 20, Pavon 48). **Att:** 8,000.

LENS 2 (Oruma 43, Tiehi 54)
MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 57). **Att:** 25,000.

SOCHAUX 1 (Fugier og 59)
RENNES 3 (Denis 2, 45, Grassi 48). **Att:** 6,500.

STRASBOURG 3 (Gohel 10, Garde 56, Mostovoi 81)
NICE 2 (Hantz 21, Chaouch pen 57). **Att:** 15,000.

MONACO 2 (Djorkaeff 11, Petersen 35)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 7,000.

METZ 1 (Zitelli 88)
AUXERRE 1 (Soler 2). **Att:** 10,000.

CANNES 5 (Kozniku 54, 80, Horlaville 62, Bedrossian 68, Sassus og 90)
LYON 1 (N'Gotty 87). **Att:** 10,000.

BASTIA 1 (Maroselli 13)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 7,000.

BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters . . .

What do you think about football's big issues? Now you don't even have to write a letter. Just pick up the phone DIAL: 0891 311665 and record your opinions. Trevor Brooking will answer a selection each month on this page.
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Calls cost 39p minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

SIDELINE OFFSIDE

TREVOR — The one rule which rightly annoys almost everybody in football is offside!

I wonder if the powers that be would consider scrapping offside altogether? This would, open up the game to more attacking football and possibly make the game more enjoyable for players, spectators and almost all referees.
— HECTOR SCICLUNA, Impington, Cambridge.

❒ CERTAINLY the offside rule can be a very frustrating and boring tactic for supporters, and in England, teams have used it more readily than perhaps most other countries and it completely stifles creative midfield play. I am reluctant to encourage too much change, and the stricter enforcement of the rules which were tried so successfully in the World Cup, is currently providing greater entertainment at domestic level. The punishment of the tackle from behind with a red card and the relaxation on offsides with regard to attackers who are not interfering in play have significantly improved the quality of games. So any further offside changes seem unnecessary. A complete scrapping of offside would surely encourage too much "goal-hanging" by selfish forwards, and even tempt players to knock it longer and quicker towards the opposing penalty area. If anything, offside might not be applied from goal-keeping clearances or perhaps free kicks, and this would at least stop those teams who love to charge out just as these kicks are about to be taken.

ALTERNATIVE AWARDS

TREVOR — Romario, Roberto Baggio and Hristo Stoichkov won the golden, silver and bronze trophies at this year's World Cup.

This makes me very angry. I can think of at least one member of each winner's team who had a better tournament than they did — Bebeto, Maldini and Letchkov.

Why do these awards only go to out-and-out goalscorers? Why can't the supporting cast pick up a trophy — instead of the prima donnas?

After all — football is a game of two halves — isn't it?
— JULIA FENTON, Oxton, Wirral.

❒ GOALSCORERS do seem to win most of the individual trophies on offer these days. Of course, their exceptional scoring feats are priceless commodities in modern football and transfer fees and wages reflect their importance within any club. Your alternative choices all had excellent World Cups, but it is impossible to come up with a consistent selection process as everyone's opinion differs. I suppose the World Cup "dream team", announced at the end of the tournament covers this. My own favourites were Jorginho, Costacurta, Mario Santos and Aldair in defence and Mauro Silva, Popescu, Balakov, Hagi and Brolin in midfield. In attack I thought Kennet Andersson, Jurgen Klinsmann and Daniel Amokachi had good tournaments. More important than anything was that the World Cup left a feeling of optimism that perhaps skill and flair is about to embark on an another exciting era.

PARITY NOT CHARITY

TREVOR — So the number of World Cup finalists is being raised to 32, mainly to create extra places for African and Asian teams, but also to safeguard Europe and South America's overlarge allocations.

Don't you think it's about time there was a bit of parity applied to the allocation of World Cup places?

I suggest a fairer system of allocating the 32 finals places, based upon FIFA membership: — Europe 8, South America 2, North America 5, Africa 8, Asia 6, Oceania 1, Hosts/Holders 2.

No doubt this will upset the traditionalists, who will claim that the World Cup will be weakened by the inclusion of so many "minor nations", but it is supposed to be the World Cup, not a glorified European Championship.
— T.J. HONEYBONE, Wheatley, Doncaster, Yorkshire.

❒ IT IS impossible to satisfy everyone, but on this occasion I must lean towards the traditionalists and would feel eight places out of 32 insufficient for Europe. I make that judgment purely on the need to try and retain a certain level of quality in 1998, with eight extra places available. That is not to say any side looked out of place in the USA tournament, and only Greece really failed to produce anything like normal form. But, to their credit, Europe did have seven of the final eight quarter-finalists and so I still feel that deserves more recognition than you seem to be willing to offer. North America, Africa and Asia are making huge progress, but not in the numbers you indicate by your split. It is very much a World Cup, and the success of 1994 didn't suggest there were too many problems on the current percentages. The European Championship has its own stage in England in 1996 which, with 16 countries now taking part, should be a memorable competition.

REFEREES IN THE DOCK

TREVOR — This year's World Cup had its share of inevitable decisive refereeing mistakes (eg Belgium v Germany and Brazil v Holland). FIFA's response to such human mistakes was to bar the "guilty" referees from further involvement in the competition.

While this satisfies one's thirst for revenge, such disciplining does rather little to improve refereeing. The soccer field is simply too big for one referee (and two linesmen). More constructive steps are needed. I suggest one or more of the following:

1. Add another referee so each is responsible for only one half of the field.
2. Increase the number of linesmen to four (with only two responsible for offside decisions).
3. Introduce video replays in major competitions. Each team could, for instance, be allowed to appeal three or four decisions per game.

— MAGNUS HARDARSON, New Haven, CT, USA.

❒ EVERY major tournament produces some sort of controversy concerning officials, but generally I thought 1994 was not too bad, and a certain leniency can be allowed because of the new interpretations. Players, supporters and officials all had to get used to the variations, while unfortunately inconsistency is virtually impossible to erase. An additional referee should not be necessary if his current fitness level is adequate, and the second referee could lead to different interpretations in the same game. Secondly, linesmen should be able to cope with their workload too, and the recent World Cup was definitely better with experienced linesmen involved this time. Long term, video replays may well be a possibility for major tournaments, but again only isolated situations should be subject to appeal.

LUCKY FOR SOME

TREVOR — Comments written about Italy's performance at the World Cup have termed them lucky. I do not agree. The following teams were lucky:

West Germany 1982 — Beaten by Algeria, then needed penalties to qualify for the final.

West Germany 1986 — Beaten by Denmark and needed penalties against Mexico.

Argentina 1990 — Needed the woodwork against Brazil then penalties against Yugoslavia and Italy.

Italy 1994 did not need penalties, but it did appear that was the only way Brazil were going to win.
— GREG AYLIFFE, Merewether, NSW, Australia.

❒ I AGREED with all your comments until the last sentence, as I do believe Brazil were worthy winners of the 1994 World Cup. Any side which progresses to the final of a major tournament needs some luck, and Italy were no different in 1982 when they struggled in their earlier games. This summer they showed tremendous character following their earlier defeat by the Republic of Ireland, but with Baggio not fully fit they lacked the necessary penetration against Brazil. The goalless Final was a disappointment, but Romario did miss chances, and I still think the right side lifted the trophy.

BORING BRAZIL

TREVOR — Europe dominates the football realm. Seven out of 13 made it to the top eight in the World Cup, whereas Brazil were the only American representative, out of six.

Brazil, played a very conservative pseudo-European style, pressing in midfield and crowding their penalty area. They scored only 11 goals in seven games, the lowest goal average statistic of any world champion.
— ALEX LUKIC, Dallas, Texas.

❒ WE HAVE already mentioned the unexpectedly fine showing of Europe, especially when you consider the heat and humidity of a steamy American summer. As much as I enjoyed the skill and touch of Brazil I would agree they lacked some of the midfield flair of past Brazilian sides. Their teams in 1982 and 1986 had talent in abundance, but they lacked the defensive stability shown by the victorious 1994 side. Having achieved their first World Cup victory since 1970 it should relieve some of the huge pressure exerted by the Brazilian media. Next time round a slightly more adventurous outlook could still provide the same outcome.

FINAL SOLUTIONS

TREVOR — Consider these two ideas to avoid the use of penalties (or any other sudden death competition) to decide drawn cup ties, while not affecting the general way that a match is played, and rewarding the team who probably deserve to win.

Award the tie to the team who hit the woodwork most often or to the team who force most corners conceded by the opposition's goalkeeper.

What do you think?
— STEPHEN WILLIAMS, Henham, Bishops Stortford, Herts.

❒ YET MORE alternatives came forward following the World Cup Final, and certainly your idea of corners is one that has surfaced quite regularly. It should reward the side who has enjoyed more of the attacking play, and both teams would know exactly what was needed, as the closing minutes ticked away. The woodwork theory is less appealing, and less likely to offer such a clear conclusion. The other popular suggestion is to play extra time, and gradually at ten minute intervals withdraw one players from either side, which hopefully would create more space, and more scoring opportunities.

FAT CATS CASH IN

TREVOR — Transfer fees now being paid are totally ridiculous!

The £5million for Chris Sutton was the latest example. He's a good player but not worth that amount. Transfer fees have escalated alarmingly over the last couple of years, because UEFA have placed a restriction on the number of foreign players who can play in European club competitions.

Now only the "fat cats" can afford the best English players (Blackburn, Manchester Utd, Leeds etc). Smaller clubs cannot compete, and need to buy foreign players to stand any chance of success. If more foreign players are allowed this can only help football. There would be more spectators to see players like Cantona, who have a superior technique, and the quality of football overall would improve.
— PAUL SMITH, Birmingham, England.

❒ CHRIS SUTTON is overvalued at £5million, and you are right to pinpoint the foreign player regulation for European competition as the main reason for the inflated transfer deals. The top English clubs you mention are desperate to expand these home-produced members within their squad, but with an overall shortage of top quality talent, the supply cannot meet the demand. Inevitably, clubs have switched their attention abroad where more experienced players can be found, at more realistic prices. The Premier League have attracted an exciting influx of international stars this season and the quality of players like Klinsmann, Dumitrescu, Schwarz, Roy, Albert and Petrescu must help enhance the skill and technique of our younger players. More important still is they can act as a catalyst an example for all potential junior players to go out and emulate.

BULGARIA

A circus of keepers

THREE POINTS for a win appeared to have made little difference in the early stages of the new season.

Only Levski and Lok were on maximum points after the first two games, when thoughts turned to the forthcoming Euro '96 qualifying tie with Georgia.

Expectation will be high as the "USA heroes" return to Sofia for a competitive game, the first of three this autumn. By then, the situation surrounding World Cup captain Boris Mikhailov will have been resolved.

The "Waltz of the Trainers" is well known each summer but in Sofia there has been a remarkable "Circus of the Keepers".

Mikhailov seems to have started it on leaving Mulhouse to train with the club where he started, Levski, but upset the management by insisting on a clause in his contract which would enable him to leave for a foreign team if an offer came.

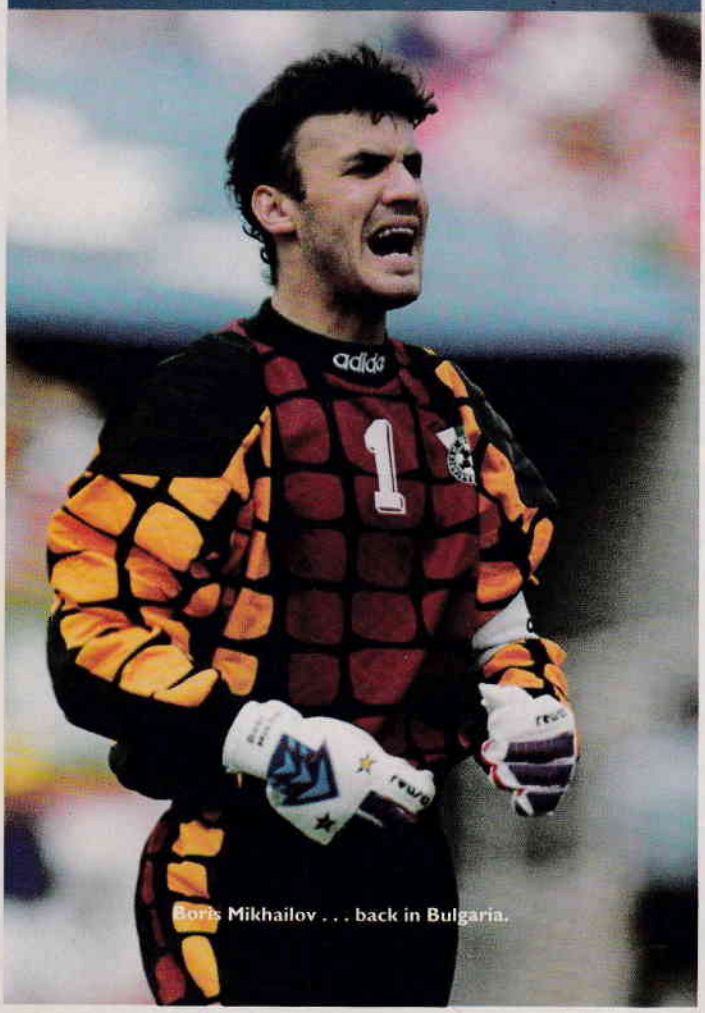
"I don't want to be hanging around in Bulgaria too long" was not a statement likely to please future employers, and so he joined Botev Plovdiv.

Meanwhile national team number two Nikolov, out of contract, left Levski to talk to Spartak Plovdiv because he would not agree financial terms.

Levski administrator Jeliazkov said "Nikolov will never play here again." But never say never! Who was in goal for Levski in Burgas? None other than Nikolov, after signing a two-season contract!

This was bad news for Ukrainian Oleg Morgun, who had had a disasterous UEFA Cup match against Olympia Ljubljana. He either goes back to being second or third choice, or takes Etar's offer.

BOB VAUGHAN



Boris Mikhailov . . . back in Bulgaria.

HUNGARY

Ujpest on target — and how!

UJPEST scored 18 goals and were the only team to win their first three games in a bright, competitive opening to the Hungarian season.

Ujpest, whose only summer signing was the Ferencvaros forward Laszlo Wukovics, beat Pecs MSC, manager Jozsef Garami's former club, 6-1 at home, then tanned Vasas 5-2 away before a 7-1 home success over Sopron.

Defender Zoltan Szlezak and attackers Gyorgy Veber, Gabor Egressy and Istvan Kozma have been in sharp, consistent form. If Slovak goalkeeper Roland Praj can eliminate his costly errors of last season this slick team can make up for last term's disappointments.

Kispest also started well, and Kalman Kovacs, returning from Royal Antwerp, played brilliantly in scoring a second-half hat-trick in the 4-0 opening-day win over Vac, the champions.

Janos Csank's team had lost the Super Cup 2-1 to Cup holders Ferencvaros — the winner coming as late as the 88th minute, by Tibor Simon — and fell 2-1 at Debrecen, where Gabor Puglits and Jozsef Zvara were sent off.

Then, in the preliminary round of the Champions Cup, and facing a 3-0 first-leg deficit to Paris Saint Germain, weak back-passes by Tibor Nagy and Tibor Sallai cost two easy breakaway goals in a 2-1 win for the visitors.

Kispest survived the preliminary round in the UEFA Cup, as did Bekescsaba, who preceded the elimination of Vardar Skopje with a 5-2 home thrashing of Ferencvaros, Janos Szarvas scored a hat-trick.

Fradi's second 6-1 drubbing of

Kovan Kovacs . . . back at Kispest.

Dudelange in the Cup-winners Cup could not soften the blow suffered down in gypsy country.

The most intriguing signings were at BVSC, where Jozsef Csabi, last season's captain at Kispest, and two team-mates there, international forward Istvan Vincze and rarely-used goalkeeper Istvan Tarlosi, have joined up with coach Sandor Egervari and football section leader Dr Gyorgy Mezey, who worked together with success at the Bozsik Stadion.

Of the newcomers to Division One this season, Nagykanizsa, last seen in the top flight in the 1949-50 season, started well by beating Debrecen 3-1 at home before 10,000. Their line-up included only one player, Bosnian forward Almin Filipovic from BVSC, with previous First Division experience.

Stadler FC, whose new stadium was not completed in time for the start of the season, hired a Romanian Ion Patrascu, 44, as coach, and had 13 in their squad who had played in the highest league, including former Vasas trio Andras Babocsy, Attila Kecskes and Laszlo Gubucz.

Zalaegerszeg, although quick to return from Division Two, have made only one significant signing, Zoltan Balog, a defender, from Parmalat, previously Videoton.

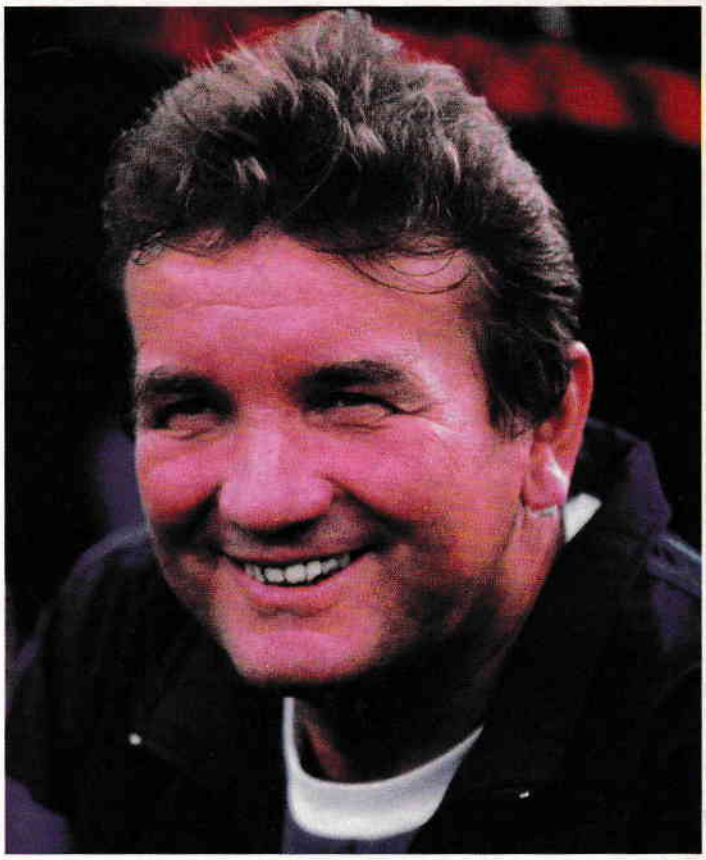
The Hungarian FA elected Laszlo Benko, 61, president of Kispest-Honved as well as a cosmetics manufacturing company, as president, to replace Dr Mihaly Laczko, who resigned in the summer.

Soon after this move, Kalman Meszoly, the Vasas coach and former international defender, accepted the post of coach of the national team for a third term. As he left club football, Imre Jenei, after an unhappy time in the national post, joined it by accepting the post at Parmalat.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

CZECH REPUBLIC

Uhrin looks hopeful



DUSAN UHRIN *(right)* went in to the first competitive game in the Republic's history with a good feeling after the 2-2 friendly draw in Bordeaux.

To help further, the CMFA, the new "FA" in Prague, incorporating Moravia in the title, set Ostrava as the venue, which is about as disadvantageous as it could have been for the Maltese. And so it proved, the Czechs running out 6-1 winners, thanks largely to a hat-trick by Horst Siegl.

Uhrin now goes to Holland with two points in the bag and a good goal tally from the Bazaly Stadium in the coalfields.

Meanwhile his successor as coach at Sparta, Karol Dobias, seeks alternative employment despite winning the League and getting to the Cup Final last season, plus beating IFK Gothenburg at home in the first leg of the UEFA Cup preliminaries and seeing off the promoted club, Svarc Benesov, 2-0 in the League.

All that was not enough! Zdenek Nehoda, general manager at the Letna, said that authority was lacking and suggested that things had not been well despite the successes. It all sounded somewhat curious and now veteran defender Chovanec will assist the new coach, former Bohemians and Austria Wien goalkeeper Vladimir Borovicka.

The most significant post-Dobias event was dismissal from Europe in the return with IFK, which leaves the season already rather flat for the champions.

Slavia, too, have a new man in charge. Dejmal also was in receipt of the early-season boot, to be replaced by his deputy, Beranek.

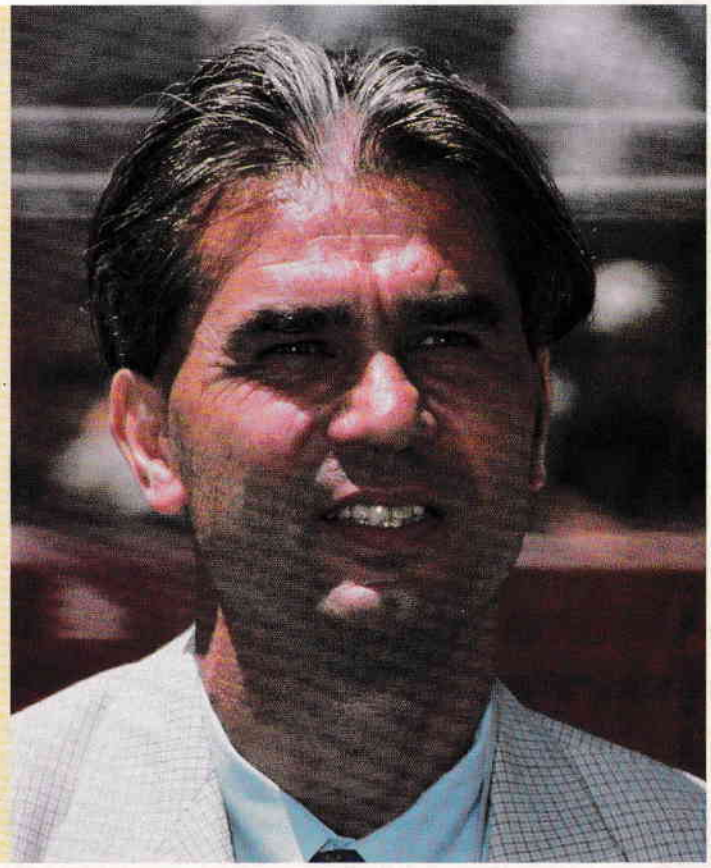
At least Slavia made it to the first round proper of the UEFA Cup, where another Swedish danger lurks, in the form of AIK Stockholm.

Chances look rosier than for Viktoria Zizkhov, who face Chelsea in the Cup-winners Cup, first at Stamford Bridge, and then either at their tiny ground, or, and more likely, at the Strahov. If both go out, there will only be League football to savour in Prague this autumn, a sorry state of affairs.

BOB VAUGHAN

ROMANIA

Anghel's battle starts again



AN ODD-LOOKING early table showed Steaua one off the bottom and propped up only by UT Arad, while Rapid Bucharest led after the narrowest of victories away to the students of Sportul.

The champions, however, remain the favourites even without Ilie Dumitrescu, a summer departure to Tottenham.

Coach Anghel Iordanescu *(right)* meanwhile starts the battle for a place in the 1996 European Championships in England with a home tie against Azerbaijan. A rather tougher test awaits his team in France in a month, but he will hope to have done his goal difference some good in Bucharest while perhaps the French will have dropped a point in Bratislava.

Iordanescu and RFF president Mircea Sandu believe that the league must become a real platform for the national team, new discoveries must be made and an end made, once and for all, to the "arranging" of matches when clubs fear the spectre of relegation.

Three points for a win have been introduced at least, with relegation play-offs at the end of the season. As before, the last two clubs will be relegated but those placed 15th and 16th will have to meet those placed second in the two Second Divisions. Whether, this will make football more attractive for the public remains to be seen.

Other changes include Iordanescu's national team assistant, Dumitru Dumitriu, taking over as chief at Steaua, who have signed midfielder Damian Militaru, and the Dinamo club slipping back under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Interior.

Can the policemen on the committee, who are in the majority, help Dinamo in the eternal battle with Steaua to be top dogs?

BOB VAUGHAN

RUSSIA

Cherenkov quits with the keys

RUSSIAN soccer fans, still recovering from the World Cup shock, were made ever more sad when Fedor Cherenkov *(right)*, **the country's most popular player, retired at the age of 35.**

Even with 40 caps to his credit, Cherenkov was consistently left out of the national team on the eve of big events, such as the 1982 and 1986 World Cups. But as Moscow Spartak's leading midfielder for almost 16 years he enjoyed overwhelming adoration at home.

After his farewell game, a 1-1 draw with Italians Parma in front of 35,000, Fedor was presented with a jeep and keys to a luxurious three-bedroom apartment. President Boris Yeltsin decorated him with one of the country's top awards — the Order of Peoples' Friendship.

Cherenkov will now be helping his long-time playing partner and Spartak's present manager, Oleg Romantsev. He needs more assistance with his club affairs now that he is combining his job with that of national team coach.

Romantsev's debut was a success: Russia beat the Rest of the World Team 2-1 at the Goodwill Games closing ceremony in St Petersburg.

The visitors featured only four 1994 World Cup participants — Wegerle of the US, Guentchev of Bulgaria, Radchenko and Salenko from Russia — but quite a number of other old-time stars, including Schumacher, Boniek and Detari.

Romantsev's first real triumph came a week later when his team beat Austria 3-0 in Klagenfurt. Benfica's Vasili Kulkov rejoined the squad for this friendly to become the first rebel player to return to the national team after former coach Sadyrin's departure.

Other "refuseniks", including Kanchelskis, Kolyvanov, Kiriakov, Shalimov and Dobrovolski, are now expected to follow Kulkov's example.

For the European Championship qualifiers they will be surely joined by Romantsev's three "darlings" who have just left Spartak: Beschastnykh (now with Werder Bremen), Karpin (Real Sociedad) and Ledyakhov (Sporting Gijon).

Alexander Tarkhanov, formerly Moscow Spartak's assistant coach, has become manager of CSKA, while Valentin Ivanov has returned to Moscow Torpedo, following a season with Second Division Asmaral.

VICTOR GUSEV

Returning to the fold . . . Vasil Kulkov.

SLOVAKIA

An emotional day in sight

INTERNATIONAL football is very much on the agenda in Slovakia.

National coach Jo Venglos is preparing for an emotional day, the country's first full international, with France, while Slovan meet FC Copenhagen in the UEFA Cup and Tatran Presov, the Cup Finalists, face seeded Dundee United.

The season will be gloomy indeed if both clubs go out of the big competitions and the national team fail to take a point.

That may well happen if Slovakia's performance against Malta in Bratislava is anything to go by. The normally calm Venglos was more than a little displeased after the modest 1-1 draw.

Romania and Poland are known quantitites, but the Slovaks must win at home and scramble for points away if they are to reach the finals of Euro 96.

Most of the squad will come from Slovan, with Moravcik and Vencel, in France, and Dubovsky, in Spain, the notable outsiders.

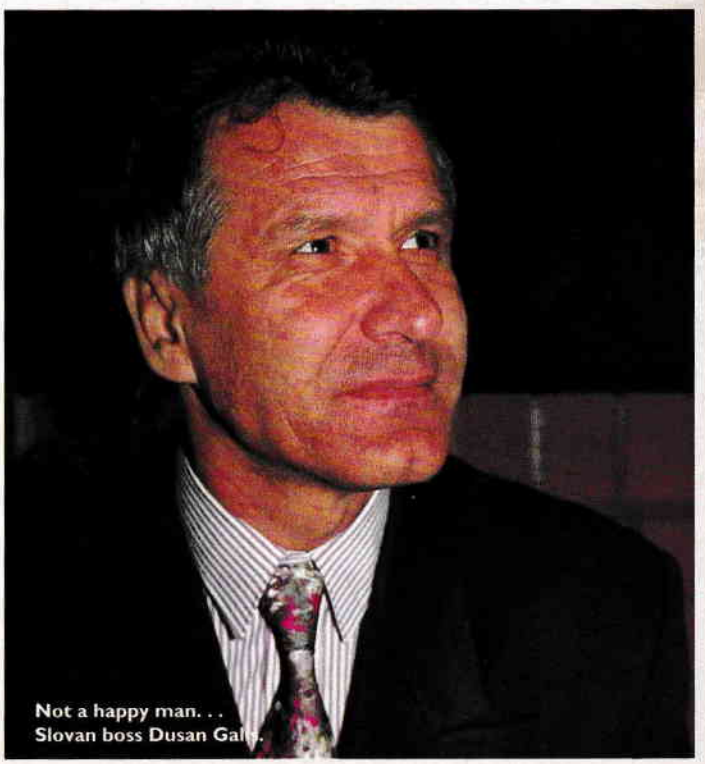
Slovan were far from happy about missing out on the Champions Cup, manager Dusan Galis being, naturally, most vociferous about UEFA's decision to include Avenir Beggen of Luxembourg in the premier competition and demote the Slovak champions to the UEFA Cup.

Demoted FC Nitra's descent means virtually no income for a club who used to take part in European games. Their spot in the "I. Liga" has been taken by BSC JAS Bardejov, an Eastern Slovak club, which means more travelling for the big boys, and a less attractive opponent.

The most interesting part of the 1994-95 championship may again be at the foot of the relegation group. Last summer only one point divided six clubs and such as Trnava, the only former champions in Group B, will want to avoid another narrow squeak.

Their new coach, former Wisla Kracow and Czechoslovak Under-21 manager Karol Pecze, is expected to do big things, and money is reported to be available for players, but it seems an age since the Red and Blacks were running Ajax and Derby County close in the Champions Cup.

BOB VAUGHAN



Not a happy man. . . Slovan boss Dusan Galis.

POLAND

Legia hit the rocks

EMINENCE at home is no guarantee of success in Europe, as Legia Warsaw have found out.

They won the League title, the Cup and the Supercup in Poland last season, and under coach Pawel Janas, they did not lose a match for more than six months.

This season, however, they lost three times in quick succession, including both legs of the preliminary round in Europe, when Hajduk Split won 1-0 in Warsaw and 3-0 at home.

Krzysztof Ratajczyk was sent off in the second game, and the temperature in Split was unusually high, but those are not excuses for a poor display.

Chairman Janusz Romanowski calculates that Legia's failure to get into the Champions League will cost at least $1million, but the group of sponsors who have contracted to support the club for five years will stick to their agreement.

GKS and Gornik Zabrze set the early pace in the new League programme, both unbeaten with eight points from five games. The pair also made progress in the UEFA Cup.

In the Cup-winners Cup, LKS Lodz face Portugal's FC Porto, where striker Tomasz Cebula had a trial last season, and where former Widzew Lodz favourite Jozef Mlynarczyk is now goalkeeping coach.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

BYELORUSSIA

Belkevich banned for 12 months

UEFA have banned a Byelorussian player for a year after he was found guilty of taking a performance-enhancing drug.

Valentin Belkevich tested positive after a UEFA Cup match against Hibernians of Malta on August 9.

A UEFA statement said Belkevich had been suspended from all UEFA competition matches until Spetember 2, 1995.

His club, Minsk Dynamo, has also been fined 50,000 swiss francs ($38,500), the statemnt said. The match result, however, has not been altered.

Traces of the anabolic steroid nandrolone were discovered in a sample of urine provided by the player after the Hibernians game, which ended in a 3-1 victory for Minsk.

Hibernians won the second leg 4-3 on August 23 in Malta, but Minsk advanced to the second round on a 6-5 aggregate score. They now face Lazio of Italy in the first round proper.

Anabolic steroids can build up muscle and increase strength, speed and endurance. Nandrolone appears on UEFA's list of banned substances.

Last month FIFA banned Argentine star Diego Maradona from playing for 15 months and fined him £10,000 for taking a "cocoktail" of five derivatives of the banned stimulant ephedrine during the World Cup in the United States.

LITHUANIA

Subs Galore

LITHUANIA won the Baltic Cup in their home capital, Vilnius, by beating both Lastvia and Estonia.

Two goals by Ivanauskas and another from a very talented young substitute, Mickalajunas, gave Lithuania a 3-0 win over Estonia, who then lost 2-0 to Latvia.

Astafeyev, outstanding in midfield, scored the first goal and made the second for Boulders.

The decider, a dour affair, eventually was settled with a penalty by Tereshkinas after 69 minutes.

The tournament took substitutions to ridiculous extremes. Lithuania and Latvia used nine replacements in their two games, and Estonia used seven.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

UKRAINE

Kiev sign five

KIEV DYNAMO intend to stay on top in the Ukraine, as their summer signings emphasised.

Five internationals were recruited — goalkeeper Vorobjov from Krivbas, defenders Kosovsky (Niva Vinitsa) and Lezhentsev (Niva Ternopil), midfielder Mikhailenko (Dnipr) and forward Skachenko (Temp).

This quintet should strengthen Dynamo's position at home and in Europe, where Bayern Munich, Moscow Spartak and Paris Saint Germain wait in Group One of the Champions League.

A crowd of 60,000 turned up on Ukraine Indepenende Day to see Kiev go through to the Champions League.

They beat Silkeborg 3-1 after forcing a goalless draw in the first leg of the preliminary round tie.

Skatchenko gave Dynamo the lead with a marvellous shot, and skipper Kovalets added a second six minutes later.

Fernandez replied for Silkeborg in the second half, but Kasovsky blasted in the third goal to seal an intriguing tie.

Ukraine's new system, with three points for a win, favours attacking clubs such as Dynamo and Shakhtyor Donetsk, runners-up last season.

Shakhtyor beat Norway's Lillestrom 2-0 at home, in front of 28,000, in the UEFA Cup but went out on a 4-3 aggregate.

Coach Yeremchenko has a stable squad, backed by intense local support in the south-east of the country. A trophy for Shakhtyor — which would be their first since Ukraine achieved independence — would be no surprise. They made a good start to the new season, and quickly established a three-point lead.

Another coach, Buriyak of Niva Ternopil, has returned to his native city, Odessa, to take over Cup-winners Cup hopefuls Chernomorets.

Buriyak did well at Ternopil with limited resources, and might do even better now that he is at a bigger club.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

ALBANIA

UEFA demand on defecting players

THE ALBANIAN FA says it is happy to comply an ultimatum from UEFA to guarantee that players taking in European Championship matches abroad would not defect.

UEFA warned Albania and newcomers Georgia could be kicked out of the European Championship because they had failed to meet UEFA conditions on security and player defections.

Around 400 players have left Albania since the fall of communism three years ago in search of better salaries. But very few have been lucky and most play in neighbouring Greece.

UEFA wants guarantees that all players return to Albania within 24 hours of the completion of matches played abroad.

LATVIA

Friendly gesture helps Skonto to victory

SKONTO RIGA brought off one of the big surprises of the UEFA Cup's early stages by eliminating Aberdeen.

The Scottish club made a friendly gesture which cost them dearly. Skonto striker Alexei Semyonov arrived without his boots, which had been diverted to Italy instead of Scotland. Aberdeen gave him a pair — and he scored the goal which put his side ahead on the night and overall.

Although Aberdeen equalised in the last minute, Skonto went through on away goals, and arned them a tie against Napoli.

Skonto also seem certain o retain their Latvian title. With seven games to play they are seven points ahead of RAF Jelgava, and have a goal difference of plus 39.

Olympia's new coach, Janis Skredelis, made a good start, but after his team had held Norwegians Bodo/Glimt to a goalless draw in the Cup-winners Cup, they crashed 6-0 in the second leg.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

1994 BALTIC CUP

Jul 29 = Vilnius
LITHUANIA 3 (Ivanauskas 15,28, Michalajunas 65)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3000. **Ref:** Lajuks (Lat)
Lithuania: Stauche — Zhukas (Pankratyev 69), Gudaitis, Baltushnikas (Stonkus 53), Tereshkinas (Zhalys 67), Vaineikis (Zhuta 46), Apanavichius (Mickalajunas 52), Ivanauskas, Korsakovas, Stumbrys, Skarbalius.
Estonia: Tohver (Poom 46) — Linnumae, T.Kallaste, Olesk, R.Kallaeste, Saks (O'Konnel 53), Lindmaa, Pari (Ratnikov 46), Reim (Lemsalu 71), Klavan (Lelov 71), Kristal.

Jul 30 = Vilnius
LATVIA 2 (Astafyev 31, Boulders 37)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Dubinskas (Lit)
Latvia: Karavayev (Laizan 69) — Troitsky, Astafyev, Erglis, Zemlinsky, Popkov (Monyak 69), Yemelyanov (Fedotov 46), Mikutsky, Zeberlinsh (Blagonadezhdin 46), Sharando (Rihters 62), Boulders.
Estonia: Poom — T.Kallaste, Olesk, R.Kallaste, Lemsalu, Lindmaa, Pari (Ratnikov 58), Klavan, Reim, O'Konnel (Saks 29), Kristal.

Jul 31 = Vilnius
LITHUANIA 1 (Tereshkinas 69 pen)
LATVIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3500. **Ref:** Timofeyev (Est)
Lithuania: Stauche — Zhukas, Gudaitis, Stonkus, Tereshkinas, Vaineikis, Mickalajunas (Apanavichius 46), Korsakovas (Vainoras 62), Stumbris (Zhuta 56), Zhalys (Darintsev 86), Skarbalius.
Latvia: Karavayev — Troitsky, Astafyev (Rihters 78), Erglis, Zemlinsky, Yeliseyev (Blagonadezhdin 46), Yemelyanov, Mikutsky (Monyak 67), Zeiberlinsh (Popkov 46), Sharando, Boulders.

INSIDE OUT

GOOD, BAD, funny, sad . . . the 1994 World Cup had a bit of everything. Here is a digest of a small proportion of events around the globe during the great soccer jamboree.

BY JOHN KELLY AND DAVID PROLE

BOOTS AND ALL

AUTHORS Dave Kemp and Ian McArthur are compiling a soccer book with a difference.

They are aiming at a complete history of the football boot, from beginnings to present-day £100-a-pair jobs.

They are looking for factual information and amusing, unusual and eccentric items, and can be reached at 14 Canal Road, Inverness, Scotland (0463-230009).

Ragged Reds

THE official Manchester United magazine is a splendid piece of work, reflecting the club's position at the top of the English tree.

What a pity, therefore, that the staff seem too busy to answer letters: one from a journalist we know, enclosing an article for possible publication, has been followed by three reminders, and not one of the four has been treated to the courtesy of an answer.

Baseball strike delights US soccer fans

FEW American sports fans have appreciated the ongoing baseball strike, but soccer supporters have relished it because they got to see the USA's friendly international against England on prime time TV.

The match, at Wembley Stadium, was shown live on *ESPN 2* in mid-afternoon, with a tape-delayed version going to air at peak viewing time on *ESPN*'s main channel, reaching 62 million households. It was the first time a non-World Cup match had been shown live nationwide in the US.

American passion-killers

ZOLA SOOKIAS likes writing letters. As a football fan living in New York, he has plenty of views on the game over there.

And he certainly makes some salient points.

His latest missive to *WORLD SOCCER* is, in our view, a splendid summing-up of the future for the world game in the United States.

"To the relief of many Americans," he writes, "football went into indefinite hibernation on July 17. Football was kicked out of sight with Roberto Baggio's missed penalty.

"For the 71 per cent of Americans who did not know — much less care — that the World Cup was here, the harbinger of 'the most beautiful game on earth' came and went, silently."

Mr Sookias says that the event was superbly organised and flawlessly executed (as in Bulgaria v Mexico, when contingencies were in place for an incident as unlikely as a goal post's collapse, and the entire goal frame was replaced in eight minutes).

He adds: "Corporate America's hijack of the World Cup from football's most deserving son, Brazil, was equally successful.

"Above all, USA '94 was living testament to the fact that almost anything can be bought with money. There is one consoling exception: passion.

"For the purists, the lack of World Cup passion in the US was a moral victory."

After that letter arrived (Mr Sookias would appreciate comments, to 336 E 6th Street, NY 10003), news came through of another event in the States: the Open Cup, which we suppose is as near an equivalent to the FA Cup that Americans are likely to get.

Greek American SC, based in California, won it, 3-0, against Bavarian Leinenkugel of Wisconsin.

The match was played at the United German-Hungarian Stadium in Oakford, Pennsylvania.

And the attendance, in a land that had just staged soccer's biggest spectacle, was 388.

Attention! General Iordanescu on parade!

ROMANIA'S President, Ion Iliescu, has promoted national coach Anghel Iordanescu to the rank of army major general, during a ceremony at Iliescu's Cotrocenl Palace.

Iordanescu, who led Romania to their best-ever performance in the World Cup at USA '94, said: "Today is one of the greatest days of my life. To be promoted general is the greatest honour for a Romanian military man."

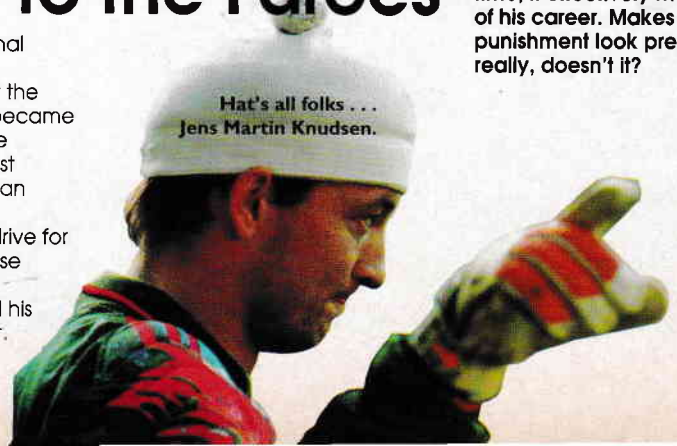
Iordanescu previously held the rank of colonel in the Romanian army, and local commentators believe he now holds the highest military rank among fellow national coaches in ex-Communist Eastern Europe.

Military man . . . Iordanescu.

Hats off to the Faroes

THE FAROE ISLANDS national team's new coach has announced new times for the all-amateur squad, who became famous after their big-time international debut against Austria in the 1992 European Championship qualifiers.

And, in keeping with a drive for professionalism, the Faroese goalkeeper, Jens Martin Knudsen, has abandoned his trademark wooly sock hat.



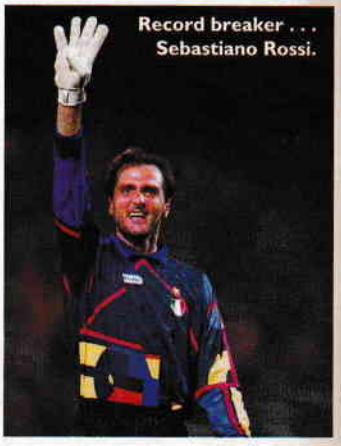
Hat's all folks . . . Jens Martin Knudsen.

Rossi's record

EARLIER in the year we paid tribute to Chesterfield's Mark Leonard, who had broken Dino Zoff's record by going eight successive AWAY games without conceding a goal.

Now we belatedly learn, from reader Davide Scotti in Cosenza, that another Italian has beaten Zoff and tied with Leonard.

Sebastiano Rossi of Milan kept clean sheets in eight consecutive away fixtures between November 1993 and March this year.



Record breaker . . . Sebastiano Rossi.

Tough on Tassotti? We think not!

OUR Scandinavian correspondent, Pentti Hietanen, cannot understand why Italy made such a fuss over Mauro Tassotti's eight-game international suspension, incurred for breaking Luis Enrique's nose during their World Cup clash with Spain. According to our man in Finland, Tassotti got off lightly!

Pentti tells us that in 1989 Kuusysi Lahti's Keijo Kousa was sent off during a Cup-winners Cup tie against Paris St Germain. Kousa protested, then spat on the ground — not at the referee — in disgust, and was banned by UEFA for FIVE years!

Given that Kousa was 30 at the time, it effectively meant the end of his career. Makes Tassotti's punishment look pretty tame really, doesn't it?

TRANSFER TRAIL

The A to Z of this summer's major global transfers

EVERY World Cup is always followed by a flurry of activity in the international transfer market. USA '94 was no exception.

Players try to wait until their appearances at the four-yearly pinnacle of the game — hopefully — lift their reputation and earnings potential.

Some players have been turned from nobodies to international superstars by the World Cup. And not merely the latest tournament in the US.

Go right back to 1930 for the evidence. Luisito Monti starred at centre-half for the Argentinian team who finished as runners-up to Uruguay; a year later he was playing in Italy for Juventus after a world record transfer fee of approximately £4,000 (a lot of money for a footballer in those days).

In 1950 and 1954 Uruguay's guiding light in attack was Juan Alberto Schiaffino, a wiry, wafer-thin inside or centre forward. Two weeks after Uruguay were beaten by Hungary in the 1954 semi-finals and Schiaffino had signed a contract with Italy's Milan. The fee was another world record: this time £72,000.

Brazil's Vava, scorer of two goals in the 1958 World Cup Final against Sweden, forced his way out of South American obscurity to a hero's welcome from the fans of Atletico Madrid. Likewise in 1962 Amarildo, an international unknown who stepped into the limelight as deputy for the injured Pele, was turned into a wealthy man within a year by Milan.

Italy came calling in 1990 for England's David Platt and Paul Gascoigne after their contrasting characters — the tranquil and the tempestuous — had earned admirers at Bari and Lazio respectively.

But neither's progress can yet compare with the extraordinary ascent of Daniel Passarella.

When he captained Argentina to World Cup glory in 1978 he could hardly have guessed at what awaited him. Italian clubs who rarely bother spending big money on good defenders (they have enough of their own) bought him. He played with huge success for Fiorentina and Internazionale, returned to Argentina as an international hero and was rewarded, first, with the prestige coaching post at River Plate and, now, with the appointment as national team boss in succession to discredited Alfio Basile.

It's an ill wind, indeed.

Basile's departure as Argentinian boss was secured by their defeat at the hands of Romania in the second round of USA '94.

Now the men who destroyed them, Gheorghe Hagi and Ilie Dumitrescu, have been rewarded in the hard cash of lucrative transfers. Midfield general Hagi has left Italy's Brescia in favour of a Champions Cup assault with Barcelona, where he replaces Real Madrid-bound Michael Laudrup in attack. As for Dumitrescu, he has moved to North London with Tottenham, as has German striker Jurgen Klinsmann.

His move was unusual in that the current trend is for German players to go home to the Bundesliga. Midfielders Stefan Effenberg, Thomas Hassler and Andy Moller have all flown home from Italy. Hassler has quit AS Roma for the familiarity of a contract with Karlsruhe while Moller — the player who forced out David Platt at Juventus — has joined Borussia Dortmund for the second time in his career. As for Effenberg, his expulsion from the German squad for a rude gesture to fans was no reason for Borussia Monchengladbach not to buy him from Fiorentina.

Most of Spain's World Cup squad transfers have been domestic matters. Veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, out of contract with Barcelona and out of favour with coach Johan Cruyff, has joined the Brazilian bandwagon at Valencia; he will be replaced at Nou Camp by Spain's No. 3 keeper at USA '94, Julen Lopetegui. Barcelona have also bought World Cup defender Abelardo Fernandez as a prospective replacement for Dutch veteran Ronald Koeman.

Old rivals Real Madrid have pepped up their own midfield by signing the long-striding Argentinian, Fernando Redondo.

Their nearest and bitterest, Atletico Madrid, preferred to sign a World Cup manager instead of a player and landed Francisco Maturana, who was probably both delighted and masively relieved to be giving his own country a wide berth after the tragic murder of World Cup defender Andres Escobar.

Perhaps the most remarkable "World Cup transfer" involved a player who sat, throughout, on the substitutes bench and was never even offered the opportunity of warming up. He is Ronaldo, the 17-year-old Brazilian striker, deputy to Romario and Bebeto, who has now been sold by Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte to Holland's PSV Eindhoven for £4million, a world record for a teenager and, incredibly, for a Brazilian.

If the non-playing reserve is worth such a sum, who can wonder that Romario and Bebeto think they are free to ignore the strictures of Barcelona and La Coruna respectively on when they should have flown back to Spain for pre-season training.

Ronaldo has not been the only Brazilian on the move. World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has undertaken the task of trying to revive Spanish club Valencia, and has bought Cup-winning midfielder Mazinho from Palmeiras of Sao Paulo to help him.

As for disgraced left-back Leonardo, he will be trying to forget the shame of suspension — for breaking the nose of American Tab Ramos — in the J.League in Japan.

Italy's tricky goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, who twice deflected the ball against the woodwork and was perfectly placed to catch the rebound, will take his good fortune from Sampdoria to Internazionale. The deal was confirmed three days after Pagliuca failed to save Italy in the Pasadena penalty duel. Sampdoria have been given Pagliuca's international predecessor, Walter Zenga, and veteran stopper Riccardo Ferri by way of exchange.

Another Italian on the move is midfielder Dino Baggio who has, surprisingly, been allowed to quit Juventus for Parma.

Portuguese champions Benfica have had a busy summer. They signed Argentinian World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia from AS Roma, top USA '94 goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme from Mechelen, and sold their Russian duo Vasili Kulkov and Sergei Yuran to arch-rivals FC Porto, Sweden midfielder Stefan Schwarz to Arsenal and Rui Costa to Fiorentina. They also changed coaches, sending Toni to Bordeaux in exchange for Paris SG boss Artur Jorge.

Belgian champions Anderlecht, like Benfica, have resembled something of a railway junction. First they bought defender Georges Grun home from Parma (Italy) and signed up Croat-born striker Josip Weber (top scorer in Belgium with Cercle Bruges for the past three seasons).

Then they sold striker Luc Nilis to PSV Eindhoven and defender Philippe Albert to Newcastle — as well as Ghanaian winger Nii Lamptey to Aston Villa.

But the most far-scattered World Cup men are the Americans themselves. Half their squad (Roy Wegerle, Thomas Dooley, Eric Wynalda, Tab Ramos) are returning to their regular European clubs, with World Cup teammates not far behind. Talented young Claudio Reyna, who missed World Cup action through injury, is joining Germany's Bayer Leverkusen while sprinter Cobi Jones is at Coventry.

Most surprisingly, centre-back Alexi Lalas has been signed up by the promoted Italian club, Padova. Lalas was a star of the World Cup not so much for his football ability but for his off the field image — his rock band and the goatee beard which turned him into a national hero and a favourite guest on television chat shows.

Serious observers of the American game could not believe the way Lalas found himself a first-choice for the World Cup with coach Bora Milutinovic; then they could not believe how he coped with the threat of Switzerland's Stephane Chapuisat and Romania's Florin Raducioiu; now they cannot believe he has become the first American to land a pro contract in Italy.

But that's part of the magic of the World Cup.

Dino Baggio . . . Juventus to Parma.

Fernando Redondo . . . Tenerife to Real Madrid.

Georges Grun . . . Parma to Anderlecht.

GLOBAL TRANSFERS *(Loan moves in italics)*

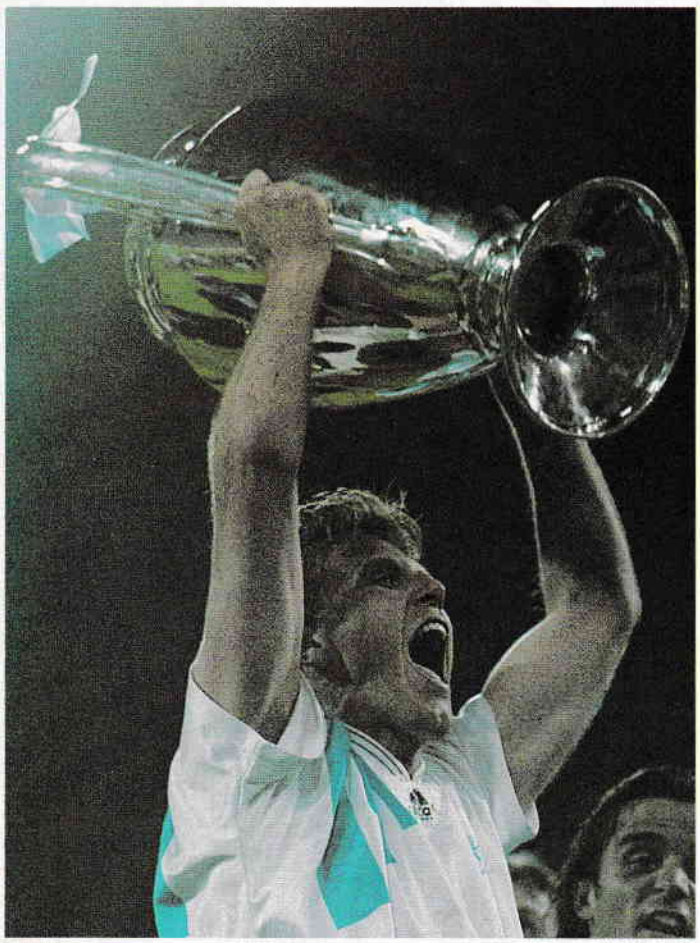
ABELARDO Fernandez	D	Sporting Gijon	Barcelona
Philippe **ALBERT**	D	Anderlecht	Newcastle United
Petar **ALEXANDROV**	F	Levski Sofia	Neuchatel Xamax
Victor **ALKIZA**	F	Real Sociedad	Athletic Bilbao
Mike **AMMANN**	G	California State Univ.	Charlton Ath
Daniel **AMOKACHI**	F	Club Brugge	Everton
Emmanuel **AMUNIKE**	M	Zamalek (Egy)	Sporting Lisbon
Kennet **ANDERSSON**	F	Lille	Caen
Jocelyn **ANGLOMA**	D	Marseille	Torino
Aljosa **ASANOVIC**	M	Montpellier	Hajduk Split
Phil **BABB**	D	Coventry City	Liverpool
Anthony **BAFFOE**	D	Metz	Nice
Dino **BAGGIO**	M	Juventus	Parma
Tal **BANIN**	F	Cannes	Hapoel Haifa
Rui **BARROS**	M	Marseille	FC Porto

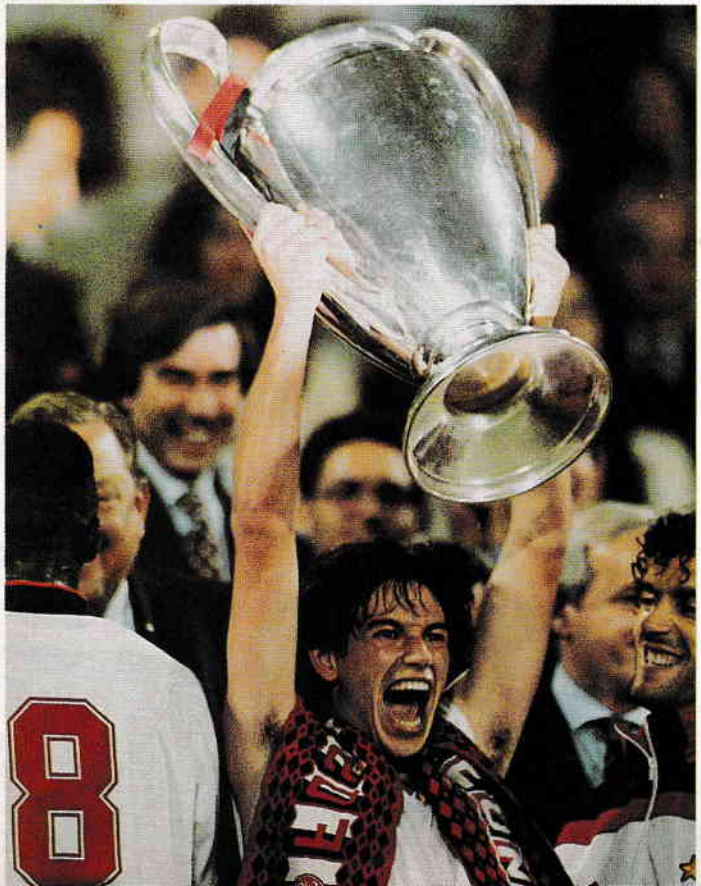
*Ivo **BASAY***	*F*	*Necaxa (Mex)*	*Boca Juniors*
Sergio **BATTISTINI**	D	Internazionale	Brescia
Eduardo **BENNETT**	F	San Lorenzo (Arg)	Benfica
Giovanni **BIA**	D	Napoli	Internazionale
Dragisa **BINIC**	M	Apoel Nicosia	Nagoya Grampus Eight
Alain **BOGHOSSIAN**	M	Marseille	Napoli
Basile **BOLI**	D	Marseille	Rangers
BRANCO	D	Fluminense	Corinthians
David **BURROWS**	D	West Ham	Everton
Kalusha **BWALYA**	F	PSV Eindhoven	FC America (Mex)
Francisco **CAMARASA**	D	Valencia	Atletico Madrid
Claudio **CANIGGIA**	F	AS Roma	Benfica
Santiago **CANIZARES**	G	Celta Vigo	Real Madrid
Angelo **CARBONE**	F	Milan	Fiorentina
JUAN CARLOS	D	Barcelona	Valencia
Tony **CASCARINO**	F	Chelsea	Marseille
Sandro **COIS**	M	Torino	Fiorentina
Joel **CORMINBOEUF**	G	Strasbourg	Neuchatel Xamax
Rui **COSTA**	M	Benfica	Fiorentina
Tony **COTTEE**	F	Everton	West Ham
Fernando **COUTO**	D	FC Porto	Parma
*Andre **CRUZ***	*D*	*Standard Liege*	*Napoli*
Jean-Pierre **CYPRIEN**	D	St Etienne	Torino
Anderson **DA SILVA**	F	Marseille	Monaco
Tony **DALEY**	F	Aston Villa	Wolves
Jerry **DE JONG**	D	PSV Eindhoven	Caen
Didier **DESCHAMPS**	M	Marseille	Juventus
Lajos **DETARI**	M	Genoa	Neuchatel Xamax
Fabian **DE FREITAS**	F	FC Volendam	Bolton
Michel **DE WOLF**	D	Anderlecht	Marseille
Eric **DI MECO**	D	Marseille	Monaco
Thomas **DOLL**	F	Eintracht Frankfurt	Lazio
Thomas **DOOLEY**	M	USSF	Bayer Leverkusen
Anto **DROBNJAK**	F	Red Star Belgrade	Bastia
Ilie **DUMITRESCU**	M	Steaua Bucharest	Tottenham
Sieb **DYKSTRA**	G	Motherwell	QPR
Stefan **EFFENBERG**	M	Fiorentina	Borussia Mg
David **EMBE**	D	Beienenses	Larissa
Mike **EMENALO**	D	RWD Molenbeek	Notts County
Vicente **ENGONGA**	M	Celta Vigo	Valencia
Carlos **ENRIQUE**	M	Gimnasia y Tiro (Arg)	Alianza Lima
Javier **ESCAICH**	F	Sporting Lisbon	Barcelona
Xavier **ESCURZA**	D	Athletic Bilbao	Barcelona
Frank **FARINA**	F	Strasbourg	Lille
John **FASHANU**	F	Wimbledon	Aston Villa
Ciro **FERRARA**	D	Napoli	Juventus
Riccardo **FERRI**	D	Internazionale	Sampdoria
Marc-Vivien **FOE**	D	Canon Yaounde	Lens
Daniel **FONSECA**	F	Napoli	AS Roma
Per **FRANDSEN**	M	Lille	FC Copenhagen
Brad **FRIEDEL***	G	USSF	Newcastle
Paul **FURLONG**	F	Watford	Chelsea
Luca **FUSI**	D	Torino	Juventus
Roberto **GALIA**	M	Juventus	Ascoli
Enzo **GAMBARO**	D	Napoli	Fiorentina
Luis **GARCIA**	F	Atletico Madrid	Real Sociedad
Jerome **GNAKO**	M	Monaco	Sochaux
Jon **GOIKOETXEA**	M	Barcelona	Athletic Bilbao
Richard **GOULOOZE**	D	Derby County	Cambuur Leeuwarden
Sergio **GOYCOCHEA**	G	River Plate (Arg)	Deportivo Mandiyu (Arg)
Marco **GRASSI**	F	Servette	Rennes
*Xavier **GRAVELAINE***	*F*	*Paris SG*	*Strasbourg*
Andy **GRAY**	M	Tottenham	Athletic Marbella
Bruce **GROBBELAAR**	G	Liverpool	Southampton
Georges **GRUN**	D	Parma	Anderlecht
Ruud **GULLIT**	F	Sampdoria	Milan
Faruk **HADZIBEGIC**	D	Sochaux	Toulouse
Gheorghe **HAGI**	M	Brescia	Barcelona
Thomas **HASSLER**	M	AS Roma	Karlsruhe
Jan **HEINTZE**	D	PSV Eindhoven	Bayer Uerdingen
Marc **HOTTIGER**	D	Sion	Newcastle United
Don **HUTCHISON**	M	Liverpool	West Ham
Robert **JARNI**	M	Torino	Juventus
Cobi **JONES**	F	USSF	Coventry City
Henrik **JORGENSEN**	G	B1909	Dundee United
JUANITO	M	Atletico Madrid	Sevilla
JULIO CESAR	D	Juventus	Borussia Dortmund
Valeri **KARPIN**	M	Moscow Spartak	Real Sociedad
Srecko **KATANEC**	M	Sampdoria	out of contract
Jurgen **KLINSMANN**	F	Monaco	Tottenham
Adrian **KNUP**	F	VfB Stuttgart	Karlsruhe
Erwin **KOEMAN**	M	PSV Eindhoven	Groningen
Wim **KOOIMAN**	D	Anderlecht	Cercle Bruges
Andreas **KOPKE**	G	Nurnberg	Eintracht Frankfurt
*Emil **KOSTADINOV***	*F*	*FC Porto*	*La Coruna*
Vasili **KULKOV**	M	Benfica	FC Porto
Oleg **KUZNETSOV**	D	Rangers	Maccabi Haifa
Bruno **LABBADIA**	F	Bayern Munich	Koln
Alexi **LALAS**	D	USSF	Padova
Nii **LAMPTEY**	M	PSV Eindhoven	Aston Villa
Brian **LAUDRUP**	F	Fiorentina	Rangers
Michael **LAUDRUP**	F	Barcelona	Real Madrid
Igor **LEDIAKHOV**	M	Moscow Spartak	Sporting Gijon
LEONARDO	D	Sao Paulo	Kashima Antlers
Julen **LOPETEGUI**	G	Logrones	Barcelona
Henrik **LYKKE**	D	FC Copenhagen	Lille
Gabor **MARTON**	M	Cannes	Pecs
Philomen **MASINGA**	F	Mamelodi Sundowns	Leeds Utd
Nenad **MASLOVAR**	M	Red Star Belgrade	JEF United Ichihara
David **MAY**	D	Blackburn	Manchester Utd
MAZINHO	*M*	*Palmeiras*	*Valencia*
Alessandro **MELLI**	F	Parma	Sampdoria
Etienne **MENDY**	F	St Etienne	Sochaux
*Sinisa **MIHAJLOVIC***	*M*	*AS Roma*	*Sampdoria*
Borislav **MIKHAILOV**	G	Mulhouse	Botev Plovdiv
Alan **MILLER**	G	Arsenal	Middlesbrough
Scott **MINTO**	D	Charlton Athletic	Chelsea
*Kazuyoshi **MIURA***	*F*	*Verdy Kawasaki*	*Genoa*
MOACIR	F	Corinthians	Sevilla
Andy **MOLLER**	M	Juventus	Borussia Dortmund
*Joe-Max **MOORE***	*F*	*USSF*	*Saarbrucken*
Jaime **MORENO**	F	FC Blooming	Middlesbrough
Magid **MUSISI**	F	Rennes	Bursaspor
Roberto **MUSSI**	D	Torino	Parma
Noureddine **NAYBET**	D	Nantes	Sporting Lisbon
Luc **NILIS**	F	Anderlecht	PSV Eindhoven
George **O'BOYLE**	F	Dunfermline	St Johnstone
*Christophe **OHREL***	*M*	*Servette*	*Rennes*
Marcelo **OJEDA**	G	Lanus (Arg)	Tenerife
Sunday **OLISEH**	M	Standard Liege	Reggiana
Viktor **ONOPKO**	D	Moscow Spartak	Real Oviedo
Massimo **ORLANDO**	M	Fiorentina	Milan
Jorge **OTERO**	D	Celta Vigo	Valencia
OSCAR Luis Celada	M	Sporting Gijon	Real Zaragoza
Jorge **OTERO**	D	Celta Vigo	Valencia
Mixu **PAATELAINEN**	F	Aberdeen	Bolton Wanderers
Jean-Claude **PAGAL**	D	Martigues	Ajaccio
Gianluca **PAGLIUCA**	G	Sampdoria	Internazionale
Boudewijn **PAHLPLATZ**	F	FC Twente	PSV Eindhoven
Stephane **PAILLE**	F	Bordeaux	Lyon
Carlton **PALMER**	D	Sheffield Wed	Leeds Utd
Jean-Pierre **PAPIN**	F	Milan	Bayern Munich
PAULAO	D	Gremio	Benfica
Michel **PAVON**	F	Toulouse	Montpellier
Adrian **PAZ***	F	Penarol	Ipswich Town
Walter **PAZ**	M	Argentinos Juniors	FC Porto
Abedi **PELE**	M	Lyon	Torino
Luis **PEREA**	D	Atletico Junior (Col)	Neza (Mex)
Christian **PEREZ**	M	Monaco	Lille
Dan **PETERSEN**	F	Ajax	Metz
Dan **PETRESCU**	D	Genoa	Sheffield Wednesday
Torben **PIECHNIK**	D	Liverpool	AGF Aarhus
Mauricio **POCHETTINO**	F	Newell's Old Boys	Espanol
Mart **POOM**	G	FC Wil (Swi)	Portsmouth
Gheorghe **POPESCU**	M	PSV Eindhoven	Tottenham
Antonio **POYATOS**	M	Logrones	Valencia
Michel **PREUD'HOMME**	G	Mechelen	Benfica
Robert **PROSINECKI**	M	Real Madrid	Real Oviedo
William **PRUNIER**	D	Marseille	Bordeaux
QUIQUE Flores	D	Valencia	Real Madrid
Lucas **RADEBE**	D	Kaizer Chiefs	Leeds Utd
Florin **RADUCIOIU**	F	Milan	Espanol
Hany **RAMZY**	D	Neuchatel Xamax	Werder Bremen
Fernando **REDONDO**	M	Tenerife	Real Madrid
Claudio **REYNA**	M	USSF	Bayer Leverkusen
Fredy **RINCON**	M	Palmerias	Napoli
Fabrizio **RIZZITELLI**	F	AS Roma	Torino
David **ROCASTLE**	M	Manchester City	Chelsea
Enrique **ROMERO**	M	Logrones	Valencia
RONALDO	F	Palmeiras	PSV Eindhoven
Gilles **ROUSSET**	G	Marseille	Rennes
Bryan **ROY**	F	Foggia	Nottingham Forest
Oleg **SALENKO**	F	Logrones	Valencia
Julio **SALINAS**	F	Barcelona	La Coruna
Vinny **SAMWAYS**	M	Tottenham	Everton
MARCIO SANTOS	D	Bordeaux	Fiorentina
Jean-Luc **SASSUS**	D	Paris SG	Lyon
Franck **SAUZEE**	M	Atalanta	Strasbourg
John **SCALES**	D	Wimbledon	Liverpool
Stefan **SCHWARZ**	M	Benfica	Arsenal
Steve **SEDGLEY**	M	Tottenham	Ipswich Town
Andrea **SENO**	M	Foggia	Internazionale
Mike **SHERON**	F	Manchester City	Norwich City
Diego **SIMEONE**	M	Sevilla	Atletico Madrid
Richard **SNEEKES**	M	Fortuna Sittard	Bolton
Rigobert **SONG**	D	NKenglikock (Cam)	Metz
Gianluca **SORDO**	M	Torino	Milan
Paulo **SOUSA**	M	Sporting Lisbon	Juventus
Robbie **SLATER**	F	Lens	Blackburn
*Mario **STANIC***	*F*	*Sporting Gijon*	*Benfica*
Gintaras **STAUCHE**	G	Moscow Spartak	Galatasaray
Uli **STEIN**	G	Eintracht Frankfurt	Hamburg SV
Michael **STENSGARD**	G	Viborg	Liverpool
Dragan **STOJKOVIC**	M	Marseille	Nagoya Grampus Eight
*Frank **STRANDLI***	*F*	*Leeds Utd*	*Brann Bergen*
Giovanni **STROPPA**	M	Foggia	Milan
Nicky **SUMMERBEE**	D	Swindon Town	Manchester City
Chris **SUTTON**	F	Norwich City	Blackburn
Eyjolfur **SVERRISSON**	M	VfB Stuttgart	Nice
Alessio **TACCHINARDI**	M	Atalanta	Juventus
Mauricio **TARRICO**	M	Argentinos Juniors	Ipswich Town
Jonas **THERN**	M	Napoli	AS Roma
Claus **THOMSEN**	M	AGF Aarhus	Ipswich Town
Olaf **THON**	D	Bayern Munich	Schalke 04
Joel **TIEHI**	F	Le Havre	Lens
John **TRELLEZ**	F	Nacional (Uru)	Boca Juniors
Albeiro **USURIAGA**	F	America Cali	Independiente
VALDEIR	*F*	*Vasco Da Gama*	*Bordeaux*
Adolfo **VALENCIA**	F	Bayern Munich	Atletico Madrid
Jason **VAN BLERK**	D	Go Ahead Eagles	Millwall
Carl **VEART**	F	Adelaide City	Sheffield Utd
Alexander **VENCEL**	G	Slovan Bratislava	Strasbourg
Francisco **VILLAROYA**	M	Real Madrid	La Coruna
Marciano **VINK**	M	Genoa	PSV Eindhoven
Josip **WEBER**	F	Cercle Bruges	Anderlecht
Nigel **WORTHINGTON**	D	Sheffield Wednesday	Leeds Utd
Eric **WYNALDA**	F	Saarbrucken	VfL Bochum
Rashidi **YEKINI**	F	Vitoria Setubal	Olympiakos
Sergei **YURAN**	F	Benfica	FC Porto
Walter **ZENGA**	G	Internazionale	Sampdoria
Andoni **ZUBIZARRETA**	G	Barcelona	Valencia

** = subject to work permit being granted*

KEIR RADNEDGE PREVIEWS THE NEW-LOOK CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

And now for somethi





LOVE IT or hate it . . . Europe is about to witness the next major step towards the long-awaited European Super League.

It is called the European Champions League — but it is a very different event to the half-hearted one with which UEFA has experimented over the last three seasons.

Forget about the old European Champions Cup as we used to know and love it. It's finished. Indeed, UEFA have been urged in some quarters to mark the break by presenting a new trophy altogether and letting the old one be contested, in a fund-raising charity match between first-winners Real Madrid and current-holders Milan.

Whether UEFA take up that option or not, be prepared now for something completely different.

For years soccer enthusiasts have dreamed of a European club league. Organising it so as not to diminish the importance of national competitions has always presented an insurmountable challenge. Until now.

What UEFA has done is take all those clubs eligible for their top-prestige event (i.e. the current national champions) and ranked them on the basis of their results over the past five years. The top eight clubs have been seeded direct into four mini-leagues which will be staged over the traditional six European cup dates in September, October, November and December.

The 16 clubs who followed next in the rankings were drawn against each other in a knock-out preliminary round in August with the winners pre-assigned to the four Champions League groups.

As for the rest of Europe's champions, they were relegated to the UEFA Cup (the No. 3 international club event behind the Champions Cup and the Cup-winners Cup).

Their anger will receive little attention, however, once the high-profile Champions League matches get under way — with the Group A clash between Manchester United and Barcelona an outstanding prospect. Top teams in the other groups promise plenty more fun and games when the top twos all go into the hat for the knock-out quarter- finals then semi-finals next March and April.

In Group B Bayern Munich have strengthened their attack with Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin and Swiss World Cup winger Alain Sutter, while Moscow Spartak gained valuable Champions League experience last season in the competition's experimental mid-season format.

In Group C old friends and rivals Benfica have strengthened their defence with Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme while Anderlecht of Brussels have put behind them an injury crisis which ruled out Swedish star Par Zetterburg for most of last term's Champions League.

Finally, Group D presents defending title-holders Milan against the always-attractive flying Dutchmen from Ajax (Marc Overmars and Co) as well as AEK Athens, worthy winners of their preliminary round tie against Scottish champions Rangers, newly-imported Brian Laudrup (from Milan), Basile Boli (from Marseille) and all.

Milan, of course, produced one of the finest exhibitions of competitive football for many years when they beat Barcelona 4-0 on the grand stage of the Olympic Stadium in Athens in the 1994 Final.

It was not that Barcelona played badly, it was rather that Milan reached heights all the more remarkable considering the absences through suspension of central defenders Franco Baresi and Alessandro Costacurta and through injury of Marco Van Basten. Milan's display, under those handicaps, was a warning of strength in depth for all those clubs who must face them in the forthcoming season.

Hero of heroes on the night was Serb forward Dejan Savicevic, who ended all doubts about his rights to a starring role with Milan thanks to an inspirational performance climaxed with a marvellous solo goal early in the second half. Daniele Massaro scored two and Frenchman Marcel Desailly the other goal.

The manner of victory provided Milan with rich consolation after their defeat the previous year, in Munich, by Marseille. Afterwards Milan coach Fabio Capello summed up the feelings of most observers when he said: "My team were extraordinary. I couldn't have asked for anything better."

What of Barcelona now? Their attack looks like the best in the world, on paper at least. They have lost Denmark's Michael Laudrup to Real Madrid but have replaced him with Romanian wizard, Gheorghe Hagi, for many observers the outstanding player at the recent World Cup finals. And when Hagi flicks the ball forward, it will be to the man who WAS voted the Top Player at USA '94, Brazilian striker Romario.

A supporting role goes to Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, who plays up front for Barcelona for proving in his country's run to the World Cup semi-finals that he possesses an all-field game. During the World Cup Stoichkov's running in his country's cause took him to parts of the pitch he never sees with Barcelona!

Of course, Barcelona boss Johan Cruyff possesses another lethal weapon in his armoury now Dutchman Ronald Koeman has decided to stay a further season.

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Koeman has scored around 60 goals for Barcelona with his thunderous free kicks and penalties — including the winner in the 1992 Champions Cup Final against Sampdoria at Wembley.

UEFA's eligibility rules, however, will prevent Cruyff fielding all four foreigners simultaneously — which will be a relief to the other teams.

The days when coaches merely had to name their best 11 players for any match are long gone. Today's sophisticated football demands that a coach give due thought not only to his starting line-up but to a properly-balanced choice of five substitutes from whom he may choose two players during the game both to cover for injuries but also to offer fresh tactical options.

Then there are UEFA's restrictions on the use of "foreign" and "assimilated" players. A foreign player is one who plays his football for a national association other than the one to which the club belongs; an assimilated player is one who plays for another national association but spent a minimum of five years including three years at youth (Under-19) level in his "adopted" country.

The rule is quite specific: a maximum of three foreign players and two assimilated players can be included in the squad of 16 players.

Mistakes are rare now: everyone remembers all too well the fate of Germany's VfB Stuttgart, who fielded one foreigner too many against Leeds United in the Champions Cup two seasons ago. Stuttgart "qualified" for the second round but the return leg was replayed on neutral territory in Barcelona, Stuttgart lost and were eliminated.

Several of this season's Champions League entrants must count their foreigners carefully. Barcelona have four world-famous foreigners in Romario, Stoichkov, Hagi and Koeman but one will have to sit in the stands each match.

At least Manchester United's problems will be allieviated, albeit unfortunately, by the four-match suspension hanging over Frenchman Eric Cantona. United's other foreigners include goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, defender Dennis Irwin and midfielder Roy Keane. Welshmen Ryan Giggs and Mark Hughes are assimilated.

Bayern Munich have four foreigners in Jorginho, Papin, Sutter and Valencia but Sutter may not be available early on after damaging ligaments in the German Super Cup match against Werder Bremen.

As for holders Milan, they are still without injured Marco Van Basten while Brian Laudrup has gone to Rangers and Floran Raducioiu to Espanol of Barcelona. Yet that still leaves Savicevic (Yugoslavia), Boban (Croatia), Desailly (France) and the returning Ruud Gullit (Holland) disputing the three places on offer.

Clearly, challenging times lie ahead for the Champions Cup coaches.

EUROPE'S EIGHT TOP SEEDS

Ajax winger Marc Overmars.

Anderlecht striker Josip Weber.

Barcelona forward Hristo Stoichkov.

Bayern goalscorer Jean-Pierre Papin.

AJAX: Ajax's league title win last season was their first since 1990. ● Ajax are one of only three clubs (Juventus and Barcelona are the others) to have won all three of Europe's mainstream club competitions. ● Frank Rijkaard says he will not play again for the Dutch national team and will probably retire from playing altogether at the end of this season. ● Coach Louis Van Gaal was formerly Ajax youth manager. ● Four members of the Ajax team which won the 1971 Champions Cup became top-level coaches: Velibor Vasovic, Barry Hulshoff, Arie Haan and Johan Cruyff. ● Ajax's record victory was 14-0 against Red Boys of Luxembourg in the 1984-85 UEFA Cup.

ANDERLECHT: Anderlecht swapped one Belgian international striker for another during the summer when they bought Josip Weber from Cercle Bruges and sold Luc Nilis to PSV Eindhoven of Holland. ● Nine Anderlecht players were in the Belgian squad which reached the second round of the 1994 World Cup finals: goalkeeper Filip Dewilde, defenders Philippe Albert (now Newcastle United), Georges Grun and Michel De Wolf (now Marseille), midfielders Danny Boffin and Marc Emmers and forwards Marc Degryse, Luc Nilis and Josip Weber. In addition, Belgium's coach, Paul Van Himst, was a former star, captain and coach of the club. ● Anderlecht have won the Belgian league title in three of the last four seasons — 1991, 1993 and 1994. ● The club's record victory was 12-0 against Cercle Bruges in a league match in 1965-66.

BARCELONA: Barcelona not only run a multiplicity of sports sections but control a bank and a radio station. ● Barcelona are one of the few remaining clubs in western Europe to reject shirt advertising. ● Star players who left during the summer included Spain's World Cup goalkeeper, Andoni Zubizarreta, and Denmark forward Michael Laudrup. Danish Olympic international forward Johnny Eklund is being loaned to English club Southampton. New arrivals included Spanish World Cup players Lopetegui and Abelardo and Romania's Gheorghe Hagi. ● Romario refused to attend Barcelona's formal pre-season presentation to the fans, insisting that he needed a longer holiday after the World Cup. ● Cruyff's son, now a firm member of the senior squad, prefers to be known professionally by his first name of Jordi. ● Barcelona have won the Spanish championship for a club record four successive seasons. ● Johan Cruyff, appointed in 1987, is the longest-serving coach in Barcelona's history.

BAYERN MUNICH: Skipper Lothar Matthaus has said he is uncertain whether to play on for Germany after the World Cup disappointment. ● Bayern defeated Barcelona 3-0 this summer in the semi-finals of a four-team tournament in Stuttgart . . . then lost 3-1 to Werder Bremen in the German Super Cup. ● New signing Alain Sutter, the Swiss World Cup forward, may be out for some time after damaging angle ligaments against Bremen. Another pre-season injury victim was Christian Ziege. ● Bayern have had three coaches in a year. They started last season under Erich Ribbeck then replaced him with Franz Beckenbauer at the start of 1994. He insisted on stepping down after winning the championship and brought in Italian Giovanni Trapattoni from Juventus. ● Bayern's Brazilian World Cup-winning defender, Jorginho, says he will leave the club at the end of the season because "six years in Europe will be enough."

BENFICA: Benfica have won the Portuguese championship a record 30 times but their 1994 success was their first in three seasons. ● Benfica have been Champions Cup runners-up five times — more occasions than any other club. ● Toni, who coached Benfica to league championship success, joined Bordeaux as coach after the summer engagement of Artur Jorge from French champions Paris Saint Germain. ● For 70 years Benfica signed only players from Portugal or the Portuguese colonies — entering the international transfer market only after Mozambique and

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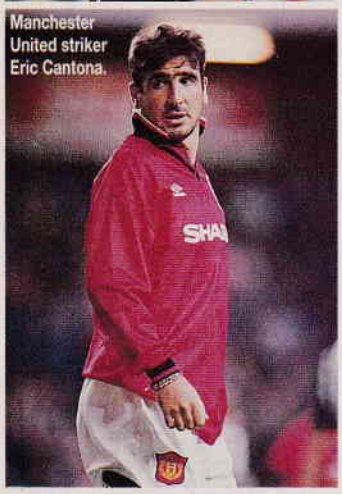
Benfica goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.


Manchester United striker Eric Cantona.

Milan midfielder Dejan Savicevic.

Moscow Spartak coach Oleg Romantsev.

THE HISTORIC MATCHES

GROUP A

Manchester United v Barcelona: United beat Barcelona 3-2 on aggregate in the Cup-winners Cup quarter-finals in 1983-84 and then by 2-1 in the 1991 Final of the same competition in Rotterdam in 1991 — the first season English clubs had returned to Europe after the post-Heysel ban. Manchester United v Galatasaray: Galatasaray reached the UEFA Champions League last season when they beat United on away goals in the second round of the Champions Cup, drawing 3-3 at Old Trafford and 0-0 in Istanbul.

GROUP B

Paris SG v Bayern Munich: This will be the first occasion PSG have faced a German club since they made their European debut in 1982-83. But Paris boast European pedigree, having reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup in 1993 and the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup in 1994.

Bayern possess a Frenchman of their own in Jean-Pierre Papin as well as happy memories of their last appearance in the Parc des Princes — when they beat Leeds United 2-0 to win the 1975 Champions Cup Final. Bayern have played against only ONE other French team in Europe, Saint Etienne. Bayern won in the Champions Cup semi-final of 1975 and Final of 1976 having earlier lost to St Etienne in the 1969-70 Champions Cup first round.

GROUP C

Benfica v Anderlecht: The clubs have met twice in European competition. The first was in the Final of the 1982-83 UEFA Cup when Anderlecht won 1-0 in Brussels and drew 1-1 in Lisbon (Anderlecht 2-1 on aggregate). The second meeting was in the 1987-88 Champions Cup quarter-finals when Benfica took revenge, winning 2-0 in Lisbon and losing "only" 1-0 in Belgium (Benfica went on to lose on penalties in the Final against PSV).

GROUP D

Ajax v Milan: The only previous meeting was in the 1969 Champions Cup Final in the Estadio Bernabeu in Madrid when Milan won 4-1 with goals by Pierino Prati (three) and Angelo Sormani. Ajax's goal was a penalty converted by Velibor Vasovic. Johan Cruyff (now coach to Barcelona) was playing for Ajax; Giovanni Trapattoni (now coach to Bayern), was playing for Milan.

Angola were granted independence. ● Benfica "lost" one World Cup star in Sweden's Stefan Schwarz during the summer to Arsenal but "gained" Belgium's Michel Preud'homme and Argentina's Claudio Caniggia. ● Veteran forward Rui Aguas is the son of Jose Aguas, who captained Benfica to victory over Barcelona in the 1961 Champions Cup Final.

MANCHESTER UNITED: United are the oldest club in the UEFA Champions League, having been founded as Newton Heath in 1878. ● Last season they became only the fourth English club this century (after Tottenham, Arsenal and Liverpool) to win the coveted domestic League-and-Cup "double". ● Alex Ferguson is the only manager to have won the top domestic prizes in both England and Scotland. ● United dedicated their 1994 league championship success to the memory of Sir Matt Busby, their long-time manager who died in January. ● Bobby Charlton, United's Champions Cup-winning inspiration in 1968, is now a club director. ● United made only one major signing during the summer, buying central defender David May from rivals Blackburn Rovers. ● United spent £10.3million on redeveloping the Stretford End at Old Trafford and still made an operating profit of more than £5million.

MILAN: Italy's state President Silvio Berlusconi has relinquished control of all his previous interests since election — except the presidency of Milan. ● Milan released three foreign players during the summer — Denmark's Brian Laudrup (Rangers), France's Jean-Pierre Papin (Bayern Munich) and Romania's Florin Raducioiu (Espanol). ● Gianni Rivera played a record 72 European club matches for Milan in the 1960s and early 1970s. ● Milan paid what remains a world record transfer fee of £13million for Torino's Gianluigi Lentini in 1992. ● Coach Fabio Capello made history when he scored the goal which provided Italy, in 1973, with a first-ever victory over England at Wembley. ● Milan's Alessandro Costacurta missed appearances in both the 1984 Champions Cup Final (for Milan) and the World Cup Final (for Italy) because of suspension. ● Defender Mauro Tassotti was banned for eight matches by FIFA after elbowing Spain's Luis Enrique in the face during the World Cup finals . . . but the suspension applies only to national team games and NOT European club competition.

MOSCOW SPARTAK: Spartak are the only club so far to have won the newly independent Russian championship — in 1993 and 1994. ● Spartak are the only seeded club in the UEFA Champions League never to have won a European trophy. ● They have never even appeared in a European club final. ● Spartak made the latest Champions Cup start of any of the eight UEFA Champions League seeds — in 1970-71 (when they lost on away goals in the first round against FC Basel). ● Spartak sold three of last season's Champions League stars during the summer — Victor Onopko to Oviedo of Spain, Igor Lediakhov to Gijon (also Spain) and Vladimir Beschastnikh to Werder Bremen of Germany.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE — *1994 schedule (kick-off: 7.30 British time, 8.30 Central European time)*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Group A: Manchester United (Eng) v IFK Gothenburg (Swe), Barcelona (Spa) v Galatasaray (Tur)
Group B: Kiev Dynamo (Ukr) v Moscow Spartak (Rus), Paris Saint Germain (Fra) v Bayern Munich (Ger)
Group C: Hajduk Split (Cro) v Benfica (Por), Anderlecht (Bel) v Steaua Bucharest (Rom)
Group D: Casino Austria Salzburg (Aut) v AEK Athens (Gre), Ajax Amsterdam (Hol) v Milan (Ita)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Group A: Galatasaray v Manchester United, IFK Gothenburg v Barcelona
Group B: Bayern Munich v Kiev Dynamo, Moscow Spartak v Paris SG
Group C: Steaua Bucharest v Hajduk Split, Benfica v Anderlecht
Group D: Milan v Casino Salzburg, AEK Athens v Ajax Amsterdam

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19
Group A: IFK Gothenburg v Galatasaray, Manchester United v Barcelona
Group B: Moscow Spartak v Bayern Munich, Kiev Dynamo v Paris SG
Group C: Benfica v Steaua Bucharest, Hajduk Split v Anderlecht
Group D: AEK Athens v Milan, Casino Salzburg v Ajax Amsterdam

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Group A: Galatasaray v IFK Gothenburg, Barcelona v Manchester United
Group B: Bayern Munich v Moscow Spartak, Paris SG v Kiev Dynamo
Group C: Steaua Bucharest v Benfica, Anderlecht v Hajduk Split
Group D: Milan v AEK Athens, Ajax Amsterdam v Casino Salzburg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Group A: IFK Gothenburg v Manchester United, Galatasaray v Barcelona
Group B: Spartak Moscow v Kiev Dynamo, Bayern Munich v Paris SG
Group C: Benfica v Hajduk Split, Steaua Bucharest v Anderlecht
Group D: AEK Athens v Casino Salzburg, Milan v Ajax Amsterdam

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
Group A: Manchester United v Galatasaray, Barcelona v IFK Gothenburg
Group B: Kiev Dynamo v Bayern Munich, Paris SG v Moscow Spartak
Group C: Hajduk Split v Steaua Bucharest, Anderlecht v Benfica
Group D: Casino Salzburg v Milan, Ajax Amsterdam v AEK Athens

PAUL GARDNER examines the continuing problems facing the game's development in the **USA**

PIONEER SPIRIT

After 70 years, the Americans still struggle to run a pro league

NOW that the World Cup climax has passed, what awaits soccer in the United States? Will the excitement and the enthusiasm be maintained, or will a sort of post-coital depression set in?

Logically, it should be enthusiasm that carries the day. The World Cup was successful at almost every level. Fans turned out in unheard-of numbers (1.5 million more than in any previous World Cup!), and media coverage was extensive.

On the field, the American team proved competitive if not exactly wildly exciting. The aim — modest, but realistic — was to avoid elimination in the first round. Coach Bora Milutinovic's cautious approach guided the US safely into the second stage.

As for the future of the game in the USA, perhaps the most impressive thing has been the profit that the World Cup made. Alan Rothenberg — who, for the past four years, has been both president of the United States Soccer Federation and the man running the World Cup — always has been coy about numbers.

He has avoided the word profit, talking of a "legacy", and said it would be around $20 to $25million. Now the real legacy figure is emerging — closer to $70million, a staggering sum of money.

Rothenberg was seeking re-election for another four-year term as president. How could he fail, when he came bearing a gift of $70 million? Yet he very nearly did fail. On the first ballot, he got only 49 per cent of the votes, while his opponent, Richard Groff, the USSF treasurer, got 46 per cent. Rothenberg won on the second ballot, but with only 53 per cent.

The narrow margin tells you a lot — maybe all you need to know — about American soccer. There is no consensus. The constituency of American soccer is made up of a mass of special-interest groups. Interests which frequently conflict.

Everyone ought to act in the interests of soccer. But which soccer? Outdoor? Indoor? Professional? Amateur? Senior? Ethnic? Youth? College? Club? Women's? And the divisions do not stop there.

Take the indoor scene. There are two professional leagues: the Continental Indoor Soccer League and the National Professional Soccer League, who have spent the past season trading insults and threats.

Outdoors, there are two leagues: the semi-pro United States Interregional Soccer League (USISL), and the American Professional Soccer League (APSL). Theoretically, these two are not competitors, as the APSL claim to be a Division I league, while the USISL are satisfied with Division III status.

Yet in the USSF election, the USISL voted for Rothenberg, the APSL against him. Behind the APSL's hostility to Rothenberg lies yet another split in the fabric of American soccer.

This is a comparatively new split, caused to a large extent by the World Cup and the riches it has brought. When FIFA awarded the 1994 World Cup to the USSF, back in 1988, a condition was supposed to have been imposed: that the USSF start a nationwide pro outdoor league, not seen in the US since the old North American Soccer League collapsed in 1984.

In 1990 Rothenberg took over the USSF and made wildly optimistic noises about the prospects for a pro league — to be launched before the World Cup. But Rothenberg is a quick learner. He soon saw that this was a pipe-dream, and postponed the launching of the pro league, to play a summer season (as had the old NASL) starting in April 1995.

Inevitably, that plan faded into the background. All attention and energy was focused on preparations for the World Cup, and not until the middle of 1993 was talk of the pro league heard again.

The league was to be called Major League Soccer (MLS), under strict USSF control, and would be financed, initially, by a loan of $5 million from the World Cup 94 Organising Committee.

This caused a lot of unease within the USSF. Many members felt that a non-profit organisation should not be involved in running a pro league, and objected to the use of legacy money to help finance the MLS.

Obviously, the APSL were going to have major objections. USSF regulations stipulate that the country shall have only one Division I pro league. The APSL were demanding to be recognised as that

Good times . . . but American soccer may struggle to survive after the highs of USA '94.

league. But the USSF, headed by Rothenberg, were withholding such recognition. Worse, they were now planning to launch MLS in direct competition.

Who would have the say as to whether the APSL or MLS was the pro league? Why, the USSF, headed by Rothenberg. When it came to the vote, in December last year, they were surprised when MLS got the OK.

Rothenberg scornfully swept aside the accusations of conflict of interest, saying that he excused himself from any meeting or discussion that might involve such conflict.

Rothenberg's financial interest in MLS caused his re-election bid to stutter. In the end, he won because the voters understood that, were he defeated, there would be no MLS. The success of MLS depended heavily on Rothenberg's personal involvement.

Meanwhile, the competition between Rothenburg and Richard Groff, who narrowly failed to halt Rothenburg's re-election, is set to continue. Groff has now taken over from Bill Sage as commissioner of the APSL. Sage quit the APSL to work for the MLS.

So where does the MLS stand right now? With both feet planted firmly in mid air. Undoubtedly a great deal of work has been done. But an even greater amount remains to be done.

With only eight months to go before the announced launch date, MLS had a logo, a television deal, an office staff of half a dozen, a couple of sponsors, and seven cities committed to . . . what?

The MLS would be centrally controlled under what is called the Single Entity plan. Socialised soccer, detractors have labelled it. The league sign and own the contracts of all the players and the coaches, and have the final word on who plays where.

The idea of all that centralisation is to exercise control over the amount of money each team spend, to make sure that the league will not go bust as teams outbid each other for players.

So seven cities have each assembled a group of people who want to back a team, and have, or claim to have, the use of a major-league stadium. Not much more than that, at the moment.

The MLS cannot keep borrowing from the legacy money, but need capital: $100million was Rothenberg's first figure, later reduced to $60million. A business plan has been presented to likely investors all over the US, while a major brokerage firm has been trying to sell shares in the league.

The response? Publicly, Rothenberg has been all smiles, saying everything is going well. But he has not announced one major, or even minor, investor.

The clock ticks relentlessly on. The MLS, due to consist of 12 teams, have only seven (and they are venues, rather than teams), and most of these stadia are simply too big.

The New Jersey team, when formed, are due to play in Giants Stadium, which has two problems: the surface is artificial turf, which the MLS do not want, and the capacity is over 60,000. Much too big for the MLS.

The answer is "downsizing" — the complete upper deck will be covered with some huge tarpaulins, or "attractively draped off" as Rothenberg puts it. At least the MLS have recognized the problem, and come up with a temporary solution.

Not nearly so realistic is the MLS view on the matter of the players. If we assume an MLS of 12 teams, then some 240 players are going to be necessary. Where will they come from?

Four per team from abroad. say. Which leaves nearly 200 top class, First Division, American players to be found. No point in beating about the bush: there are not 200 such players. Some would doubt there are even 20.

They can only come from existing leagues: USISL (a Division III league), APSL (classified by the USSF itself as a Division II league), or from the two indoor leagues.

Other possible sources: the colleges, or Americans playing overseas. The cream of American players now play in Europe. Tab Ramos, Eric Wynalda, John Harkes, Kasey Keller, John Kerr, Alexi Lalas, Joe-Max Moore, and Claudio Reyna. Players that the MLS desperately need. Can they be lured back?

The MLS are in an absurd pickle over this. Their business plan talks of repatriating players: "MLS believes that it will quickly become a net exporter — in economic terms — of players to international leagues. Based on MLS's knowledge of the development of US players and the transfer market, MLS is projecting that, beginning in 1996, it will earn revenues annually through the sale of players to clubs in other countries, primarily in Europe."

An extraordinary claim. Not only does it contradict the MLS's own position on bringing Americans back to the US, but it reveals a formidable ignorance of the various legal and quota barriers that lie in the way of selling young, untried players to foreign countries. The claim also shows a remarkably optimistic assessment of the level of American talent. The truth is that MLS will have great difficulty finding American players who can play top soccer. And MLS, surely, dare not present anything other than the best.

That lesson has been driven home again and again in the long history — over 70 years — of the attempt to present pro soccer in the US.

The most recent try, the NASL 1967-1984, was successful only when its clubs were buying top players. When the level of play began to fall, so too, very quickly, did fan interest. And the main reason for the drop in the quality of play was the introduction of an increasing number of young Americans.

There is little reason to believe that the situation is any better now. Solving this problem is fundamental if soccer is to become a major-league pro sport.

Sports such as baseball, basketball and gridiron football use the colleges as a farm system. All their top players start their careers by going to college. The best college teams draw huge crowds, and their standard is not greatly below that of the pros.

They also make a lot of money for their colleges — something that gives those sports the denomination "revenue-producing", and considerable power in deciding how they should be run.

The attempt has been made, and continues to be made, to have soccer follow the same pattern. The numbers are impressive: over 500 colleges now field soccer teams. But college soccer is not a revenue-producing sport — the average game draws in the low hundreds. It has no clout.

It is by and large an unimaginative, physical sport — not the sort of thing to draw masses of fans. Not a breeding ground for pro talent.

There is a more immediate step that can be taken to improve matters. The population now includes some 24 million Hispanics, soccer-passionate people. Yet this is a group that has been ignored by the USSF.

Until this year the USSF had no Hispanics on the staff. The coaching schools are notoriously anti-Latin in their outlook.

Not only is that attitude, in a country as ethnically mixed as the US, plain wrong, it is also self-defeating. There is Hispanic talent in abundance to be scouted and assessed, but it is repeatedly overlooked. The problem is that the Hispanics have their own leagues. They are not part of the suburban/college circuit.

Until the USSF find a way of including the Hispanics, it cannot be said to represent the whole of American soccer. Rothenberg professes to be aware of the problem. But he and USSF general secretary Hank Steinbrecher have been making the right noises for nearly four years, with little meaningful action.

It is possible that real change may be on the way. Rothenberg has publicly stated that he will not renew the contract of Bob Gansler, who for the past four years has been in charge of the player development system now being found to be so inadequate.

A new-style federation is needed, now, that aggressively courts the Hispanics, completely revises theory-dominated coaching-schools, presses relentlessly for colleges to relax their restrictive rules on the sport. If the colleges will not co-operate, then the USSF must do much more to encourage the growth of clubs.

The catch, of course, is that the errors of the past now weigh heavily on the future. The failure to develop pro-level players is working against the one thing that would make all of soccer's problems so much easier to solve: a flourishing pro league.

Shearer strikes . . . and Lalas is humbled.

No contest at Wembley

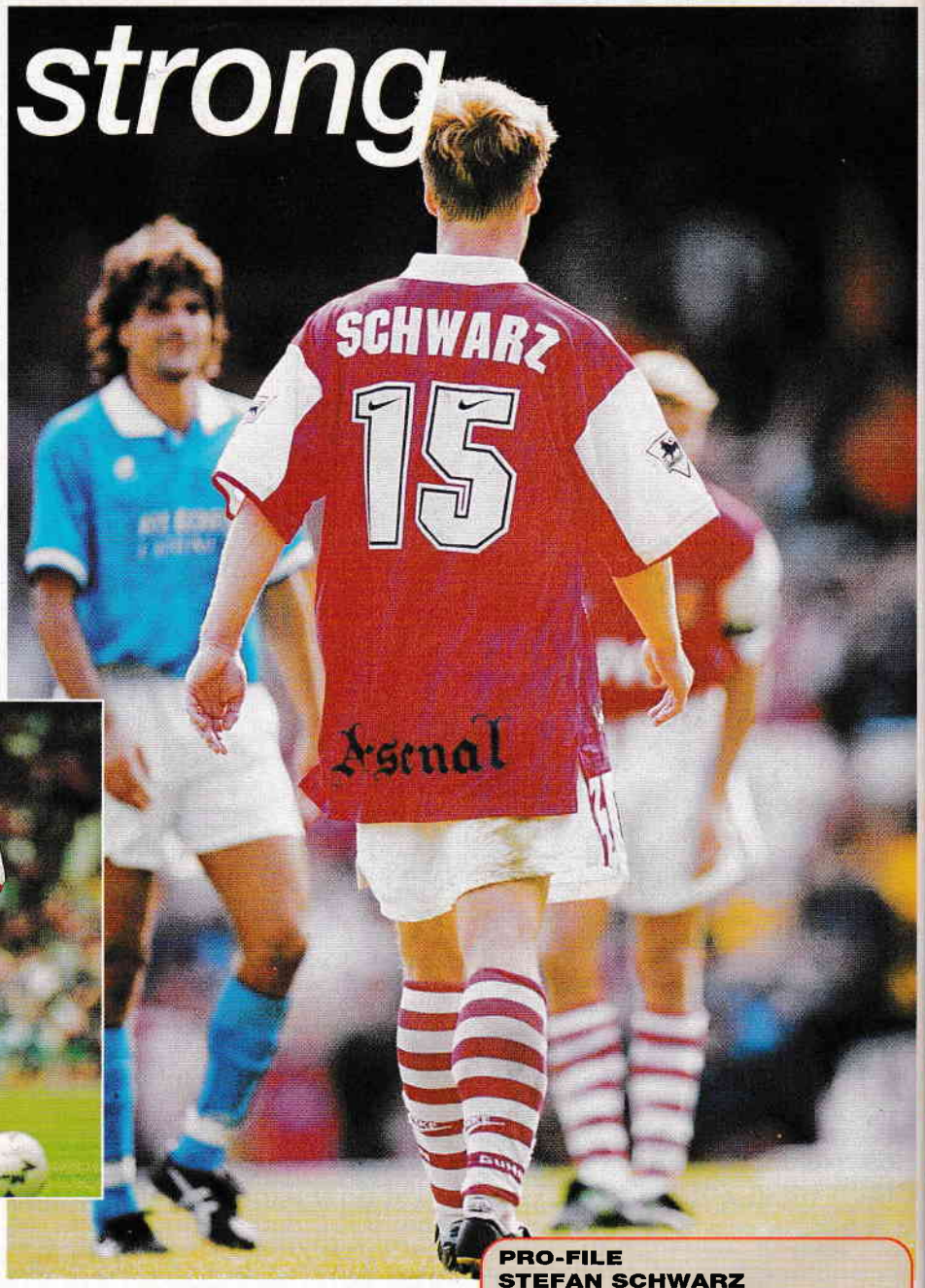
THE United States, overrated during the World Cup finals, undersold themselves in the 2-0 defeat by England at Wembley.

Two superb goals by Alan Shearer were little enough reward for England's attacking domination against a US team half of whose members had not kicked a ball in anger since the Independence Day exit against Brazil in the World Cup last July.

Coach Bora Milutinovic, happily enigmatic as ever, refused to use a lack of match fitness as an excuse for defeat but the Americans troubled England goalkeeper David Seaman only once.

Complaints were heard afterwards about the choice of the United States as season-opening opponents but the FA had little option. The intensity of fixture programming in the expanded European Championship means England will struggle to find available and meaningful opposition — at least in mid-season — in the run-up to the 1996 finals.

Simply strong



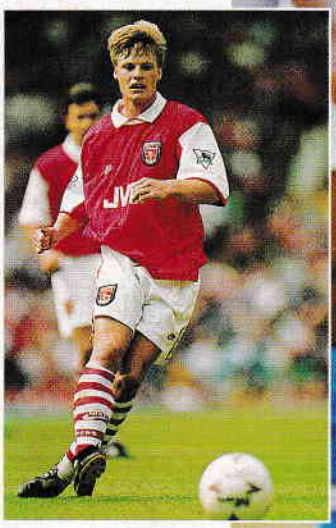
ARSENAL supporters might not care to admit it, but there can be no doubt that their club's continental summer signing has been well and truly upstaged by the World Cup wonders down the road at Tottenham.

While Jurgen Klinsmann and Ilie Dumitrescu have totally transformed the fortunes of a club in crisis, Stefan Schwarz slipped almost unnoticed and unheralded into the Highbury midfield.

Yet that is just the way Arsenal manager George Graham would prefer things. He is more than happy to let the media circus pass his club by, but is nevertheless confident that his latest continental acquisition will prove a sound long-term investment.

"Stefan is not a typical continental player," says Graham, who never really came to terms with the frustrations of managing Schwarz's Swedish international team-mate, Anders Limpar. Coming from Graham, that is a major compliment.

"He is very competitive and very strong," Graham adds. "He can handle the pace and physical and mental demands of the English game.



"Continentals can handle the technical and skilful side but can't always get their way through three physical games a week. But Stefan is just what I have been looking for. He rarely gives the ball away, is very competitive and a brilliant tackler. He is outstanding in a quiet way.

"Like all great players, he keeps it very simple. There is a lack of really talented creative midfield players in world football at the moment. If you can't get them then you have to sign a general who can win tackles and pass it to your talented forward players.

"That's what Manchester United have done over the past two years and Stefan will give us the same balance in our midfield."

Schwarz hardly set English football alight in his first month in the Premiership but Graham is convinced the £1.8million he paid Benfica will prove good business.

"Price has got nothing to do with it," insists Graham. "If a player is successful, then he's a bargain at any price. Conversely, if he doesn't do the business for you then the fact that he was cheap doesn't even come into it."

Schwarz first came to Arsenal's attention when he was playing at left-back for Malmo, the club he joined as a teenager from his local, Kulladals FF. Graham had just signed Nigel Winterburn at the time and was not in the market for another left-sided defender.

But he closely monitored Schwarz's progress during his four years in Portugal, where he moved into Benfica's midfield alongside international team-mate Jonas Thern, and finally got his man shortly before this summer's World Cup finals.

Nine bookings and three suspensions during Sweden's most recent European Championship and World Cup campaigns have established Schwarz's reputation as his country's "hard man" but it's an image the quietly spoken player is keen to play down.

"I am not a hard man," he says. "Everyone who plays wants to win the game. Football has a lot of physical contact but no one goes in to tackles to commit a foul. It's just to win the ball. The modern game is very fast and very athletic. You have to be strong to survive.

"The same thing can be said of English football. It is very tough but it's not a dirty game. There is a lot of sportsmanship here and that is something which all European players appreciate.

"English football has always been the best in Europe. You have good clubs and good players and it's excellent for me to come here to Arsenal. They are a great club with a tradition of winning trophies. I have come here to win things and I am sure I will achieve that aim.

"There is a very good spirit at Highbury and the fact that the team wins even when we are not playing well is proof of that. It is the sign of an effective team.

"Every player here has something different to offer, while George Graham has proved to be one of the best coaches in Europe. I'm sure he will get the very best out of me and that my game will develop here.

"I know that I will be playing many more games here than in Sweden or Portugal, but that doesn't worry me. Some foreign players struggle in English football but it should suit my style because I like a battle.'

Sweden coach Tommy Svensson clearly has no doubts about just what it is that Schwarz brings to the team. He is always asked to shadow the opposition's most dangerous player and Svensson confirms: "There is no such thing as a friendly where Stefan is concerned.

"He is the sort of player you'd trust with your life, a man to have alongside you in the trenches. He is particularly strong when it comes to the big games.

PRO-FILE
STEFAN SCHWARZ
ARSENAL & SWEDEN
Born: May 18, 1969.
Previous clubs: Kulladals FF, Malmo, Benfica.
International debut: February, 1990 v UAE.
International caps: 35.
International goals: 5.
HONOURS
Swedish League: 1986, 1988 (Malmo).
Swedish Cup: 1984, 1986, 1989 (Malmo).
Portuguese League: 1991, 1994 (Benfica).
Portuguese Cup: 1993 (Benfica).
World Cup: third place (1994).

But he's not dirty. Dirty players bend the rules. He sticks by them."

Another member of the Schwarz fan club is Arsenal striker Ian Wright, who says: "Stefan is a kind of Tony Adams in midfield and that's the biggest compliment I can pay him. He leads by example and gets stuck in while his distribution is also excellent.

"People talk of his mean attitude but he's got the ideal temperament for English football. If you look at foreign players who come here, not many have handled the physical side of our game. But Stefan is a new bred.

"Only the ambitious players come here to England to test themselves and that's why I've got a lot of time for Klinsmann and Dumitrescu. Others get a lot of money for an easy time and so they stay in Europe. They prefer to count their money.

"But the English league is the only place you get a battle every game. There are no Saturdays off here and it's great that we've got Stefan on our side because he's a winner."

Schwarz's arrival on reported wages of £10,000 a week sparked rumours of a Highbury revolt but Graham has been quick to stamp on those allegations.

"Everyone goes on about this strict wage structure we're supposed to operate at Highbury, but we are among the top two clubs in the country when it comes to wages.

"Every club has a budget which it has to stick to. A lot of clubs have three or four players on unbelievable wages and the rest of the squad a long way behind them. But that's not the way we operate at Arsenal. I wanted to make the team more important than any individual because teams who rely on individuals don't win things.

"There are now very few players who can improve what we already have and the days are gone when Arsenal can just go out and get whoever they want. The majority of quality players are not available so when someone like Chris Sutton comes on to the market we all go for them.

"But even Manchester United's wage structure stopped them going for him and Alex Ferguson would have had a lot of problems on his hands if he'd really wanted to sign Sutton.

"I don't think players are greedy for asking for huge wages. I blame the people who are daft enough to give it to them.

"But I believe Arsenal must protect their interests for the long term. There are a few clubs around who were very big only a few years ago yet aren't too well off financially now. It is my job to ensure Arsenal never find themselves in that position.

"We have not been the biggest buyers in England during my time in charge and I will not upset valued and valuable members of my squad for the sake of making a big signing.

"If we can't give a player what he wants, I don't worry about it. I just get on with something else. I don't lose any sleeper over Roy Keane or Chris Sutton. We have got Stefan Schwarz because he always wanted to come to Arsenal and I am sure he will prove a very good acquisition."

OLD SYSTEMS, OLD IDEAS, POOR QUALITY, POOR PLANNING

KEN GOLDMAN talks to coach JOHN CARTWRIGHT, who is returning to Kuwait because he is still downhearted by the state of English football.

WS: *Why, after all your outspoken efforts, do you feel the need to return to Kuwait?*
JC: I spent five years there and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I like the people and the working atmosphere there, and when the Sporting Club offered me a chance to go back for a third time I thought 'Why not?'

I have battled away here for many years and felt it was about time I thought about myself and my family, rather than hitting my head against a brick wall working against traditional problems that never seem to get settled.

WS: *What do you feel is going wrong?*
JC: I cannot see we are doing anything to change the established methods of development which produce the poor quality of players we have now. We have not looked ahead in the game and still rely on our old systems and ideas, merely tinkering with things rather than clearing the decks to look at development as a strategy which can take us forward.

The route we are travelling now makes me feel that we will neither see the technical side nor the understanding of the game improved, unless there is a major change.

WS: *Do you think you have been a lone voice over these aspects?*
JC: I said before the World Cup that we would not qualify. I said that even before we played the qualifying matches.

We still tend to believe that we have little to learn from anyone and I only hope that we sent a technical team to the US for the World Cup to examine what went on there.

I have been advocating for some years that we should be going out to Germany and Holland and other countries to examine their systems. But it seems to me that unless you have played 400 League matches and won 50 to 60 caps, nobody listens to you whether or not you are interested in youth football or the general development of the game. Although I played international football at youth level, and League soccer for both West Ham and Crystal Palace, it has been hard to change anything or get people to take an official interest in anything I have been saying.

WS: *There was a rumour that Terry Venables had asked you to be England youth coach. So why are you still going to Kuwait?*
JC: Any opportunity to work at top level in your own country is worth extensive consideration, but the England job was all newspaper talk. The opportunity never arose, so I never had to consider it.

Terry must be disappointed over the way the game is going here. What with the other Home Countries players in our league already, and now an influx of players from around the world, he has a reduced number of people to select from as he tries to produce a class England side. It is disconcerting to see so many foreign players having to be introduced into our game to supplement the skill levels and technical quality that are lacking in our players. We should be producing skilful men of our own, and it is not very clever to generate money through television and other commercial sources and then see it go abroad. I agree with Gordon Taylor of the PFA that it is fine to bring in class players, because we are short of these, but not those who are inferior to those we are already producing.

Added to that is the old problem of too many games, so obviously the international side suffer as a result.

WS: *What would you say to people who accuse you of always moaning?*
JC: They may be right, but if you do not moan nothing gets done. I have constantly drawn attention to problems in the development end of the game. If more people in professional football had shown an interest in what was happening to their raw material, there might have been less of a problem related to massive transfer fees and the introduction of so many overseas players. Unfortunately, at the top there has been an introduction of a game style related to direct play rather than a learning process, and that has become a gross injustice both to the game and to the kids who want to go out and play.

Cartwright . . . leaving for Kuwait.

Venables . . . working with England.

EXTRA TIME UPSETS GOLAC

THE Scottish season began in almost the way it had ended last May — with some candid wisdom from Dundee United's refreshingly outspoken Croatian manager, Ivan Golac.

He watched his team succumb to their second defeat of the new season as a result of a goal scored by Celtic's Tony Mowbray in the 94th minute, then said: "That's one new rule they didn't tell me about!"

Golac, who led his team to Scottish Cup Final glory at Hampden Park last season, was quick to modify his thinly-veiled criticism by acknowledging that "if the referee says we have to play until midnight, then we just have to accept it" — but it was clear that he was a man tormented by his side's disappointing start to the campaign.

The previous week, he had looked on as his team were thrashed 5-0 by Hibernian at Easter Road. They performed in such an inept manner that memories of that glorious Hampden occasion only three months earlier had become severely clouded.

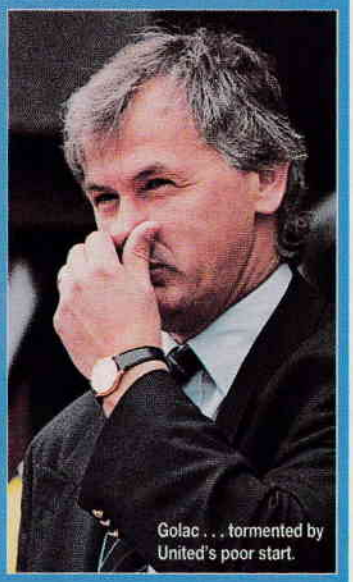
When Golac arrived at Tannadice just over a year ago, his stated intention was to create a side to excite the fans. In leading United to their first Scottish Cup triumph some say that he has achieved that objective, but for a painfully extensive period United were hovering perilously close to the relegation zone.

A good Dundee United side must be a bonus for Scottish football. Along with Aberdeen, they have been the only club to break the championship monopoly of Rangers and Celtic over the best part of 30 years.

In addition, they have carried the country's banner into Europe with more aplomb than most. At the moment, however, they appear to be lacking in direction. Despite receiving £4million from Rangers for Duncan Ferguson, spending on new players has been minimal, although this has been tempered by the emergence of some gifted youngsters from that mystical conveyor belt of talent located somewhere close to Tannadice.

Celtic, even with new chairman Fergus McCann and recently-recruited manager Tommy Burns at the controls, seem light years away from mounting a sustained assault.

Burns appears to be determined to stick by his old guard of players such as Charlie Nicholas, Peter Grant and Paul McStay. Respected as they are, the side need the acquisition of a big-name player. One glimpse of optimism came with the signing of striker Andy Walker from Bolton, for a tribunal-set fee of £550,000. Walker clearly is enjoying his second spell at Parkhead following his unhappy time under Bruce Rioch at Burnden Park.



Golac . . . tormented by United's poor start.

CRASH! CRASH!

SADLY for Scottish football, the country's involvement in European club competition was wrecked before the end of August. Aberdeen were eliminated from the UEFA Cup by Latvian side Skonto Riga in one of the big surprises of European history, while Rangers, despite the efforts of new signings Brian Laudrup and Basile Boli, were beaten both home and away in the Champions Cup by AEK Athens — an even more remarkable turn-up.

The week after that defeat proved to be even worse, when the club lost at home to Celtic in a League derby match, and went out of the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup at home to Falkirk.

Rangers still seem likely to dominate Scottish football this season, but this will be scant consolation in view of their stated ambition to establish themselves among Europe's elite. Motherwell, in the UEFA Cup, hammered Havnar Boltfelag of the Faroes 7-1 on aggregate, to set up a lucrative tie with Borussia Dortmund, which will be shown live on German TV.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Omagh start 23 points down

STRUGGLING Omagh Town were dealt a severe blow by the Irish League management committee when found guilty of using an unregistered player for the last four months of 1993-94.

Omagh have had all 23 points gained last term deducted and have been placed at the bottom of the table. So, with zero points and in 16th place, Omagh now have no chance of reaching the top division of the new two-tier league to be introduced in 1995-96.

This certainly will not be an easy season for manager Roy McCreadie — now in his second period in command — for financial resources are stretched to the limit.

The player concerned in the sorry affair, 24-year-old midfielder Paul Dunnion, is now with Ards, where manager Roy Coyle has not had the best start to the new season.

In the Ulster Cup, which traditionally opens a new campaign, Ards were the only team to lose all three of their opening group matches. Coyle immediately put five players on the transfer list, but made one positive move when he signed 32-year-old midfielder Ray Morrison from Glentoran after he had been given a free transfer by Tommy Cassidy *(right)*, the new manager.

Cassidy, who left Glentoran over 20 years ago to play for Newcastle United, and most recently was manager of Gateshead in the Vauxhall Conference, is under no illusions regarding the size of his task in reviving the East Belfast club.

After sizing up his playing staff in the pre-season friendlies, he decided on a massive clear-out — including Morrison. Things didn't get any better in their first match, when the Glens were hammered 5-1 by Carrick Rangers, leading to demonstrations by supporters. After emerging from a locked-doors session with his players, Cassidy said: "This was the most humiliating performance I have ever been associated with, either as a player or a manager.

"It was a pitiful display and I fully sympathise with the supporters who had to watch it!"

Cassidy reckoned he could get it right, however, for the beginning of the League campaign.

The supporters, who have watched their team become also-rans since the Championship in 1991/92, are looking for Cassidy to lead a challenge for the title. Linfield, favourites to retain that

No joy at home

A NEW and sinister date may yet enter the annals of Welsh — if not UK — football history. July 26, 1994, could mark the beginning of the end of independence for the four home countries.

High Court Judge Jacob agreed to an injunction requested by three English-based "Welsh" clubs to be allowed to play in their home towns pending a full High Court hearing in January.

The three clubs concerned had chosen to move into exile rather than play in the Konica National League of Wales, preferring to remain within the English system and quoting a number of reasons, some of which hold little water.

An impasse had arisen, with the FAW unwilling to take risks with the status of the Konica League by negotiating with the three clubs.

The clubs in response became increasingly bitter — the chairman of one concerned, Caernarfon Town, even expressing a wish that Wales would not qualify for the World Cup in order to shame the FAW.

Many fans have grown tired of the antics of the exiles and even the supportive Welsh tabloids have grown surprisingly quiet now that the full effect of the action has sunk in.

"The Scottish FA have been supportive of the FAW position, since the outcome of the case could have adverse implications for the continuing independence of each of the national associations within the UK," said Jim Farry, the chief executive of the SFA.

In England, the FA — strangely silent during all the exchanges — refused to make any detailed comment but pointed out that the "original transfer of clubs took place with the agreement of the FAW".

So we could be forgiven if we believe that the FA would welcome a unified UKFA, because they would inevitably, or at least eventually, control the new federation by sheer weight of numbers alone.

As for FIFA, the matter is receiving their full attention. "We are in contact with the two associations involved," according to Michel Zen-Ruffinen, head of their legal department.

But they are "unwilling to give further details until the case is settled" — thus remaining firmly on the fence where they have been since the beginning.

And as for UEFA, Konica League clubs have enjoyed access to European club competition, and UEFA say that this is not threatened. No further response was forthcoming.

The immediate effect on European football may not become apparent until perhaps the next century, but the effect on the status of the four UK federations will become fact within the next four years if FIFA and UEFA do not act now to retain the status quo.

If they have the inclination, of course.

title, were one of the few teams not to engage in hectic activity in the transfer market during the close season — a market which again featured the now-customary influx of players from Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.

Only time will tell how many of these buys will be useful assets to their ever-optimistic employers.

League runners-up Portadown have the largest contingent of "foreigners", but in their recent UEFA Cup defeat against Slovan Bratislava they could field only three out of nine non-native players.

ROY KITSON

Magpies flying high

Keegan . . . pointing the way to success for Newcastle.

Cole . . . already top of the goalscorers list.

AFTER five rounds of the new season, Newcastle United are the only English team with a 100 per cent record.

Kevin Keegan's side have stormed to the top of the table with maximum points, and 19 goals from five games. Andy Cole has continued where he left off last season, with seven goals to his credit, and Robert Lee is not far behind with five.

All this has been achieved without Peter Beardsley, who broke his jaw in their first game of the season, and injured midfielder Lee Clark. But the mood on Tyneside is decidedly buoyant, and with good reason.

Newcastle took more points than anybody in the second half of last season, and are a good outside bet for the title this time round. They are back in Europe for the first time in 17 years, tickets for home games are sold out weeks in advance, and Newcastle's players are starting to make their way into the England side.

Beardsley returned to international action last season, and now Barry Venison, at 30, has won his first cap. Robert Lee has been promoted to the squad, and if Cole keeps going at his current rate, he cannot be ignored for much longer.

Marc Hottiger and Philippe Albert have come in to strengthen the defence, and with such firepower available, many sides will suffer at the hands of the "Toon Army" this season.

Nottingham Forest, on their return to the FA Premiership, have started well and are unbeaten after their first five games.

Dutch striker Bryan Roy and Stan Collymore are developing a good understanding, and the ghost of Brian Clough seems to have finally been laid to rest at the City Ground. For Forest's fans, there is only one Bryan who matters now.

Similar optimism, too, at Anfield after Liverpool's bright start. Teenage striker Robbie Fowler already has five goals, and John Barnes, looking his best for many years, is back in business and back in the England team too.

Manager Roy Evans has moved to beef up his defence with the signings of John Scales, from Wimbledon, and Phil Babb, from Coventry, though neither are assured of a first-team place. Above all, Liverpool are playing flowing football again, and looking like they are enjoying it — a far cry from the depressing days under Graeme Souness.

Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United have started in solid fashion, and are well placed after the first month of the campaign. Rovers spent a record £5million on striker Chris Sutton during the summer, and his partnership with Alan Shearer is already playing off, with eleven goals between them already.

United slipped up at Leeds, going down to a 2-1 defeat, but with Eric Cantona back in the team they should bounce back immediately. Sadly, Cantona will miss the first four games of United's Champions League campaign, a factor which could cost them in the long run.

Tottenham, hardly title-favourites after their six-point deduction, have nevertheless made a flying start with their all-new, all-attacking approach.

Goals have been flowing from Ossie Ardiles' team, but just have many have been going in at the other end. Now Spurs have moved to stop this by buying Romania defender Gheorghe Popescu from PSV Eindhoven. Popescu can play anywhere across the back line or in front of the back-four, and is seen as the answer to Tottenham's defensive problems.

At the bottom of the table, those teams there now could well find themselves there or thereabouts next May. Everton, despite signing Nigeria's Daniel Amokachi, are still in trouble, and Leicester, Coventry, West Ham, Southampton, Crystal Palace and Ipswich will struggle to avoid the drop — especially as four teams go down this season.

NO JOY IN EUROPE EITHER

THE domestic season in Wales kicked off with fairly predictable results and the three pre-season favourites all began well, but then crashed heavily in Europe.

Champions Bangor City and runners-up Inter Cardiff suffered predictable exits against superior foreign opposition, City against an IA Akranes side in excellent mid-season form and Inter against experienced GKS Katowice. Lack of competitive match practice showed with performances well below par. The same applied to Barry Town in the Cup-winners Cup. After conceding a late winner to Zhalgiris Vilnius in the home leg, they suffered heavily in the return leg and lost 7-0.

Domestically, these three clubs should be contesting the honours at the season's end. Flint Town United, under ex-Wrexham forward Dixie McNeil, and Holywell Town, who finished strongly last season, could be the leading rivals.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

On the outside looking in . . . prospective Coventry City winger Cobi Jones.

On the up . . . Everton hope Daniel Amokachi will lead them to glory.

Foreign flood raises questions

THE band of foreign players in English football has grown considerably during the summer, with most top clubs turning to imports to strengthen their hands.

Tottenham led the way with the most expensive two-fingered gesture — to the FA — in English soccer history. Faced with no FA Cup participation, a six-point deduction in the FA Premiership and the prospect of dwindling season-ticket sales, Tottenham owner Alan Sugar struck back with devastating effect.

Romania international Ilie Dumitrescu was the first to sign up, for £2.6million from Steaua Bucharest, despite being virtually unknown in this country.

Then German striker Jurgen Klinsmann was bought from Monaco for £2million, and immediately kick-started Tottenham's season-ticket sales into over drive. The transfer itself was pure theatre, with Klinsmann posing aboard Sugar's yacht, anchored in Monte Carlo Bay, for the waiting papparazzi, despite Sugar's earlier assertion that he was not going to be the type of club director who would throw money at a problem.

Finally, Dumitrescu persuaded fellow-countryman Gheorghe Popescu to join up, Tottenham paying PSV Eindhoven £2.9million for the man they believe can shore up a highly-suspect defence.

And Tottenham are not the only ones at it. Arsenal signed Sweden midfielder Stefan Schwarz from Benfica, and Sheffield Wednesday snapped up his team-mate Klas Ingesson, from PSV Eindhoven, and Romania full-back Dan Petrescu, from Genoa.

Everton spent a club record £3.5million on Nigeria forward Daniel Amokachi, from Club Brugge, while Aston Villa went for Ghana's teenage senation Nii Lamptey. Newcastle imported Swiss full-back Marc Hottiger, from Sion, and Belgium centre-back Philippe Albert, from Anderlecht, to shore up their defence.

Leeds looked to South Africa for their imports, having failed to sign Genoa's giant Czech striker Tomas Skuhravy. Striker Phil Masinga and defender Lucas Radebe were signed for a combined fee of £500,000.

Liverpool have invested in the future by signing Denmark Under-21 goalkeeper Michael Stensgaard, while their Lancashire rivals Blackburn took Australia striker Robbie Slater from Lens.

Nottingham Forest went for Dutch winger Bryan Roy in a club-record £2.5million deal with Foggia, while QPR paid Motherwell £500,000 for Ducth keeper Sieb Dykstra.

Ipswich Town signed Denmark Under-21 midfielder Claus Thomsen, Argentinian Under-23 cap Mauricio Taricco, and Uruguay striker Adrian Paz in a series of innovative, if risky, transfers in an attempt to improve on last season's dismal record.

All these imports have caused much discussion during the quiet summer months.

Most agree that importing top-class foreign players is good for the game — exciting fans, stimulating domestic players and generally bringing a good deal of attention to English football.

But, where do you draw the line? What makes one foreigner acceptable and another not? That vexatious question has been puzzling all concerned.

At present, the criteria for entry are sketchy. All EC nationals are acceptable, under European law, but non-EC players face a much tougher process.

Non-EC players must be "established" internationals, and must be virtually assured of a first-team place to meet the FA's proviso that foreigners should play in 75 per cent of their club's fixtures.

How, then, can an uncapped Argentinian defender be allowed in while and American forward, with 50 plus caps and World Cup finals experience, be denied?

Let's consider cases. Cobi Jones, the speedy US winger, was all set to join Coventry City until the move hit a snag over his work permit. Yet, with his caps and World Cup experience — more than most of the current England team — he seems an ideal candidate. Not so.

The PFA have questioned the move, clearly on the basis that American caps are not as valubale as others, and at the time of writing the matter has not been resolved. So far this season, the nearest Jones has got to English football was at Wembley, when his team were outplayed by England.

One of Jones' team-mates in the Wembley match

Brad Friedel, is in a similar situation. He has been chased by Newcastle all summer long, but cannot get a work permit either, despite holding almost 30 caps to his credit.

To be fair, Friedel's case is slightly complicated by the fact that Newcastle already have another foreign goalkeeper, Pavel Srnicek, and both cannot play in the same team.

On the other hand, Ipswich were able to buy an uncapped Argentinian defender, Mauricio Taricco, from Argentinos Juniors because his father is Italian, hence an Italian passport, hence he counts as an EC national.

Good for Ipswich, but tough on Coventry and Cobi Jones, who is — by any yardstick — far more qualified than Taricco.

PFA chief Gordon Taylor is the most vociferous on this probelem, arguing that importing foreign players is not a good idea, hence his opposition to Jones and Friedel.

This, of course, is a typically short-sighted approach to the problem. Next April, when the Major Soccer League stars, there could be dozens of jobs for English players of all ages and abilities.

But, who could blame the Americans if they closed the door to English imports completely?

Taylor would cerainly have something to moan about then, but perhaps a taste of his own medicine might make him realise the folly of his crusade to keep foreign players out of English football.

The foreign players who have arrived in England this summer have created a real buzz in the FA Premiership, proving to all bar Taylor, seemingly, that variety really is the spice of life.

And, if Taylor's "established" foreigners only ethos had been applied in the past, English football would have missed out on some fine players. Would Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen have been allowed to play? Doubtful.

Further, who is to say that up-and-coming foreign players will not go on to be international stars of the future? Ipswich's Bontcho Guentchev has proved, in some small measure, that unknowns can, and often do, go on to bigger things.

Guentchev, a Taylor-target if ever there was one when he arrived at Portman Road, went as far as the semi-finals of the World Cup with Bulgaria, further than Cantona and Klinsmann and Amokachi and Schmeichel and . . .

Taylor, labelled "an inward-looking islander" by Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall, has every right to be concerned about the 400 or so English professionals thrown on soccer's scrapheap during the summer, but barring the way to foreigners in no answer. Clubs can and will sign the players they want, one way or another, and should be free to decide their own transfer decisions provided they remain within UEFA's statutes — something Taylor is palpably failing to do.

Both Jones and Friedel showed at Wembley that they are talented players who could make a contribution to English football.

In barring them, Taylor and his cohorts are denying English fans the chance to see different styles of play.

It may also be worth remembering that Italy's Serie A has, in many people's opinion, replaced England's top flight as the best League in the world. And one of the most often quoted reasons for this is: "because they have the best foreign imports".

Taylor's stance, while protecting the interests of the players, completely ignores an equally important part of soccer's partnership — the fans. Most fans are delighted when their club sign a foreign player, bringing publicity and a certain amount of glamour to their team.

Whatever else happens, it is certain that the PFA, the FA and anybody else should keep their "customers" in mind when deciding who can, and who cannot, play in England.

JOHN KELLY

RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	4	4	0	0	15	3	12
Man Utd	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Nottm. Forest	4	3	1	0	5	2	10
Liverpool	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Chelsea	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Tottenham*	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Blackburn	4	2	2	0	8	1	8
Leeds Utd	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Man City	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Aston Villa	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
Norwich	4	1	2	1	1	2	5
Sheffield Wed	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Arsenal	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
QPR	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Ipswich	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Wimbledon	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
Crystal Palace	4	0	2	2	3	9	2
Southampton	4	0	2	2	3	9	2
Everton	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
Leicester	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
West Ham	4	0	1	3	1	7	1
Coventry	4	0	1	3	1	10	1

** = 6pts deducted at end of season*

BELL'S SCOTTISH PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernian	3	2	1	0	6	0	7
Celtic	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Rangers	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Falkirk	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Aberdeen	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Motherwell	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Partick Thistle	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Dundee Utd	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Hearts	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Kilmarnock	3	0	1	2	0	3	1

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

WEEKEND

FA CHARITY SHIELD

MAN UTD 2 (Cantona 21 pen, Ince 80)
BLACKBURN 0. **Att:** 60,402 *(at Wembley)*.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 3 (Campbell 2, Smith 36, Wright 76)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 38,368.

CHELSEA 2 (Sinclair 43, Furlong 75)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 23,098.

COVENTRY 1 (Busst 70)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Castledine 55). **Att:** 10,962.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Armstrong 49)
LIVERPOOL 6 (Molby pen 12, McManaman 14, 70, Fowler 45, Rush 60, 74). **Att:** 18.084.

EVERTON 2 (Stuart 22, Rideout 70)
ASTON VILLA 2 (Fashanu 66, Saunders 74). **Att:** 35,544.

IPSWICH 0
NOTTM FOREST 1 (Roy 40). **Att:** 18,882.

MAN UTD 2 (Hughes 47, McClair 68)
QPR 0. **Att:** 43,214.

SHEFF WED 3 (Petrescu 54, Calderwood og 66, Hirst 83)
TOTTENHAM 4 (Sheringham 19, Anderton 30, Barmby 71, Klinsmann 82). **Att:** 34,051.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Banger 15)
BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 60). **Att:** 14,209.

WEST HAM 0
LEEDS 0. **Att:** 18,610.

LEICESTER 1 (Joachim 90)
NEWCASTLE 3 (Cole 51, Beardsley 51, Elliott 74). **Att:** 20,048.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

MIDWEEK

NOTTM FOREST 1 (Collymore)
MAN UTD 1 (Kanchelskis 22). **Att:** 22,072.

BLACKBURN 3 (Sutton 18, Berg 59, Shearer 73)
LEICESTER 0. **Att:** 21,050.

LEEDS UTD 1 (Whelan 89)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 34,218.

WIMBLEDON 1 (Holdsworth 19)
IPSWICH 1 (Milton 61). **Att:** 5,853.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Saunders 32)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Le Tissier 89). **Att:** 24,179.

MAN CITY 3 (Walsh 13, Beagrie 42, Rosler 55)
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 19,150.

NEWCASTLE 4 (Lee 21, 34, Watson 26, Cole 73)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 34,163.

NORWICH 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 19,015.

QPR 3 (Ferdinand 22, Sinclair 57, Gallen 78)
SHEFF WED 2 (Sheridan 38, Hyde 74). **Att:** 12,788.

TOTTENHAM 2 (Klinsmann 21, 36)
EVERTON 1 (Rideout 46). **Att:** 24,553.

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 1 (Staunton 46)
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Southgate 87). **Att:** 23,305.

BLACKBURN 4 (Sutton 67, Sutton 74, 89, Wilcox 78)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 21,657.

LEEDS UTD 2 (Masinga 2, Whelan 19)
CHELSEA 3 (Wise pen 38, Spencer 61, 89). **Att:** 32,212.

MAN CITY 4 (Rosler 56, 64, Walsh 61, 64)
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 19,867.

NEWCASTLE 5 (Watson 30, 37 Cole 40, Cole 70, Lee 85)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Banger 42). **Att:** 34,181.

NORWICH 1 (Robins 64)
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 19,110.

NOTTM FOREST 1 (Collymore 38)
LEICESTER 0. **Att:** 21,601.

QPR 1 (Ferdinand 90)
IPSWICH 2 (Yates 20 og, Guentchev 49). **Att:** 12,456.

TOTTENHAM 0
MAN UTD 1 (Bruce 49). **Att:** 24,502.

WIMBLEDON 0
SHEFF WED 1 (Watson 76). **Att:** 7,453.

LIVERPOOL 3 (Fowler 26, 29, 31)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 30,017.

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 3 (H. Robertson 29, Dodds 58, Both 74)
HEARTS 1 (Colquhoun 53). **Att:** 13,800.

FALKIRK 1 (McCall 53)
CELTIC 1 (Walker 59). **Att:** 20,200.

HIBERNIAN 5 (Findlay 7, Jackson 33, 36 pen, Harper 69, O'Neill 89)
DUNDEE UTD 0. **Att:** 8,849.

PARTICK THISTLE 2 (McWilliams 23, English 24)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 7,428.

RANGERS 2 (Hateley 44, Coyne pen 48)
MOTHERWELL 1 (D. Ferguson 87). **Att:** 43,750.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

MIDWEEK

LEAGUE CUP — 4TH ROUND

AYR 0
CELTIC 1

GREENOCK MORTON 1
AIRDRIE 1.
Aet, Airdrie won 5-4 on pens

DUNDEE 3
CALEDONIAN THISTLE 0

DUNFERMLINE 4
MEADOWBANK 1

HAMILTON 5
CLYDE 0

DUMBARTON 0
HEARTS 4

MOTHERWELL 3
CLYDEBANK 1

PARTICK THISTLE 5
BRECHIN 0

ABERDEEN 1
STRANRAER 0

ARBROATH 1
RANGERS 6

KILMARNOCK 4
EAST FIFE 1

ROSS COUNTY 0
RAITH 5

STIRLING 0
ST JOHNSTONE 2

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 0
HIBERNIAN 3

FALKIRK 1
MONTROSE 1
Aet, Falkirk won 5-4 on pens

ST MIRREN 0
DUNDEE UNITED 1 *(Aet)*

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Robertson 37, McDonald 75)
FALKIRK 2 (Cadette 29, Booth 87). **Att:** 12,900.

CELTIC 2 (Walker 73, Mowbray 90)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Nixon 76). **Att:** 25,817.

HIBERNIAN 0
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 9,101.

MOTHERWELL 1 (Coyne pen 79)
HEARTS 1 (M. Johnston 51). **Att:** 8,249.

PARTICK THISTLE 0
RANGERS 2 (Byrne og 8, Hateley 77). **Att:** 15.030.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

MIDWEEK

LEAGUE CUP — 5TH ROUND

HIBERNIAN 2 (O'Neill 28, 89)
DUNFERMLINE 0. **Att:** 9,533.

PARTICK 0
ABERDEEN 5 (Shearer 29, 32, 62 pen, Ken 60, Dodds 69). **Att:** 5,058.

DUNDEE 1 (Farningham 19)
CELTIC 2 (Collins 8, Walker 78). **Att:** 12,000.

HAMILTON 2 (Cleland 75 og, Duffield 119)
DUNDEE UTD 2 (Hannah 41, 97). **Att:** 2,180.
Aet, Dundee Utd won 5-3 on pens

HEARTS 2 (Locke 9, Colquhoun 31)
ST JOHNSTONE 4 (O'Neill 46, O'Boyle 68, Miller 79, Irons 89). **Att:** 8,467.

MOTHERWELL 1 (McCart 76)
AIRDRIE 2 (Boyle 33, 119) *Aet*. **Att:** 6,010.

RAITH 3 (Cameron 35, 42, 77)
KILMARNOCK 2 (Montgomerie 33, Williamson 80). **Att:** 4,000.

RANGERS 1 (Laudrup 64)
FALKIRK 2 (Cadette 28, 76). **Att:** 40,687.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Welsh 77, Brewster 85)
ABERDEEN 1 (Grant 61). **Att:** 9,295.

FALKIRK 2 (Fulton pen 65, Cadette 69)
PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Grant 42). **Att:** 5,402.

HEARTS 0
HIBERNIAN 1 (Hunter 61). **Att:** 13,500.

KILMARNOCK 0
MOTHERWELL 1 (Coyne 18). **Att:** 7,388.

RANGERS 0
CELTIC 2 (Collins 45, McStay 46). **Att:** 45,466.

Brazil

Zagalo

back for the next big one

GREMIO of Porto Alegre won the Brazil Cup, played annually between the champions of the 26 state leagues and vice-champions of the six strongest states on a knock-out basis.

They qualified for next year's Libertadores Cup by beating Ceara in the final, drawing 0-0 in the away leg and winning the second 1-0 at home.

Most of the state leagues have a very low standard and their champion clubs are also weak, so this is generally not a very strong competition. Clubs from the stronger leagues, often caught up in fixture congestion, are unable to field full-strength sides in midweek cup games. Thus Ceara caused a surprise in an earlier round when they knocked out Brazilian and Sao Paulo league champions Palmeiras.

The rumpus caused by the returning World Cup squad, who brought some 17 tons of goods back from the United States and refused to pay customs duties, was finally settled by the Brazilian FA. They will pay the $100,000 in instalments, but the money is likely to come out of the players' World Cup bonuses.

President Franco had earlier told Customs to waive the fees, but this caused such an uproar that he had to retract.

Meanwhile, Brazil are already looking ahead and have named a four-time champion, Mario Zagalo, to replace Carlos Alberto Parreira, who resigned immediately after the World Cup to join Valencia in Spain.

Zagalo was in the team which won World Cups in 1958 and 1962, was coach of the World Cup-winners in 1970, and was assistant coach to Parreira this time. He also was coach in between World Cups 1967-68 and has an unequalled record of 54 wins, 16 draws and eight defeats in 78 matches.

His appointment was not unexpected, but not applauded by everyone. He favours a more defensive game than Brazilians like, but he says that beautiful soccer has to be sacrificed for effective soccer to win trophies.

Zagalo will have to rejuvenate the team. By 1998 many of his current stars — Romario, Bebeto, Jorghino, Dunga among them — will be in their thirties, and the first two have already said they will not play.

People say: "For Zagalo winning isn't everything. It's the only thing." To which he retorts: "I've been in this sport for 40 years and I know it's only about winning.

Back as the boss of Brazil . . . Mario Zagalo.

Ronaldo goes Dutch

RONALDO, the 17-year-old Brazilian striker who was in the World Cup squad but did not play, has been transferred from Cruzeiro to PSV Eindhoven for £4million.

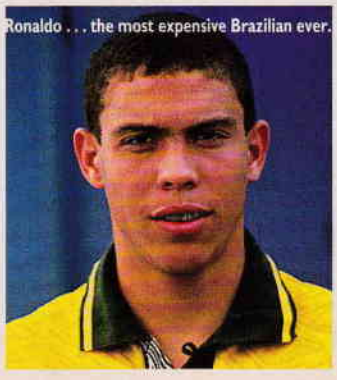
According to reports, he will be paid $1million a year.

Ronaldo follows another Brazilian, Romario, who played for PSV for five seasons before moving to Barcelona.

This is the highest sum ever paid for a Brazilian player.

Ronaldo originally wanted to play for Rio club Flamengo, who offered him a trial but would not pay for his long bus fare, which he could not afford.

Other moves: MAURICIO POCHETTINO from Newell's Old Boys (Arg) to Espanol (Spa) for $1million; WALTER PAZ from Argentinos Juniors to FC Porto (Portugal) for $600,000; EDUARDO BENNETT, Honduras international striker, from San Lorenzo (Arg) to Benfica (Por); CARLOS ENRIQUE, former international midfielder, from Gimnasia y Tiro (Arg) to Alianza Lima (Peru); MARCELO OJEDA, Argentinian goalkeeper, from Lanus (Arg) to Tenerife (Spa) for $600,000; BRANCO, Brazilian international defender, from Fluminese to Corinthians; SERGIO GOYCOCHEA, Argentinian international goalkeeper, from River Plate to Deportivo Mandiyu.



Ronaldo . . . the most expensive Brazilian ever.

Tele changes tune

TELE SANTANA, who has spent nearly 30 years preaching the gospel of attacking football and cursing those who resort to negative tactics, appears to have changed his philosophy overnight.

In reaching the Libertadores Cup final for the third year running, Santana's Sao Paulo team relied heavily on tough defence, often thuggish behaviour on the pitch and play-acting — which Santana has rightly condemned throughout his career.

There was nothing more sad than watching Sao Paulo's thoroughly unpleasant display in the semi-final against Olimpia of Paraguay, especially from a team who had delighted genuine fans with their style in winning the competition for the past two years.

Sao Paulo won the home leg 2-1 with the help of an outrageous penalty awarded after Palhinha had made not so much of a meal but more of a state banquet out of a perfectly good tackle.

Referee Jorge Nieves, to general bewilderment, pointed to the spot, allowing Sao Paulo to equalise, and Muller gave them victory in the second half.

Santana, best remembered for the superb Brazilian team he coached in the 1982 World Cup, said he had not seen the incident (despite the TV set he keeps in the dugout) and declined to comment. Was this the same man who once told *WORLD SOCCER*: "I don't want to win with the help of a refereeing decision."

In the second leg in Asuncion, Sao Paulo again forgot their principles and gave a defensive display which could have made even Arsenal fans ashamed.

Olimpia, rough but probably no more so than the average Brazilian side, provided the skill, hitting the woodwork three times and winning the game 1-0 before losing the tie on penalties.

Santana has had a tough time keeping a top team together, having seen players file out one after another in the past two years.

Sao Paulo have never been the same since Rai left for Paris St Germain.

Pintado, the midfield hard man, also left last year for Mexico, while Dinho, who replaced him, moved to Santos. Leonardo defected to the J.League, following Ronaldo Rodrigues, a key central defender. Two excellent full-backs, Ivan and Ronaldo Luis, also departed.

Those are the mitigating circumstances, yet it still seems that Santana's best spell with Sao Paulo has been and gone.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

Argentina

Dietician's slip costs Diego dear

WHEN the Argentina FA chief, Julio Grondona, was called before Parliament to answer questions about the country's failure at the World Cup, he blamed Daniel Cerrini, a 26-year-old who runs a gymnasium in Buenos Aires.

Cerrini is a former South American body-building champion who now trains athletes in that speciality.

Sources close to him say he has been known to give pupils specially-made concoctions of vitamins and other substances to build up their bodies, and that at least one of them was stripped of a title in Brazil after testing positive.

Diego Maradona engaged Cerrini as his dietician when he returned to soccer last year in Argentina, although Cerrini holds no diplomas accrediting him as a dietician.

Maradona's form, both in last year's play-off games against Australia and in the finals, was truly amazing.

Cerrini was mixing special concoctions into the player's food which appeared not to contain any prohibited drugs, but he ran out of his supply while with the player in the US.

He then bought what he thought was a similar product, sold freely at drug stores there. It was not, but his English was not good enough to know the difference. Drugs on FIFA's forbidden list were in the "medicine" — and the rest of the story is well known.

Maradona's defence was that it was all an accident, although the whole matter now seems academic.

Maradona has sworn several times that he has finished with football as a player, and the 18-month ban means that he will be 35 when it expires.

Cerrini, meanwhile, has not returned to Argentina. He says he is helping his brother, who has a business in Miami, and that he has talked with Maradona by phone several times and there are no problems between them.

Maradona was back on a soccer field less than a month after being suspended by FIFA . . . but it was a little field inside a TV studio in a four-a-side game lasting 16 minutes.

He was reported to have been paid $100,000 for his appearance during a popular Sunday night TV programme in Buenos Aires which generally features a mini-soccer match.

On this occasion four of Brazil's World Cup winners, Taffarel, Branco, Dunga and Bebeto — not Romario, who wanted to be paid much more than Diego — faced an Argentinian four chosen by Diego and completed by Goycochea, Ruggeri and Buruchaga.

Maradona scored two goals, but the Brazilians won 7-4.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of General Guemes, the mayor was keen to go ahead with his plan to have a monument built to honour Maradona.

This would not cost the poor township a penny — the money coming from donations — and would bring in tourism, he said, but many citizens claimed that there were other priorities in a place where large areas are still without running water.

Doped or duped? . . . Maradona's 18-month ban means his playing days are over.

● OSCAR GARRE, the Argentinian international defender, has retired after 19 years in the First Division, mostly with FC Oeste.

● DIEGO MARADONA has also been indicted by a Buenos Aires court for injuring reporters with an air rifle last February, a charge which carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

Top job but no title

THERE was joy and sadness for Daniel Passarella, the former national team captain and World Cup-winner in 1978.

He was offered the job of national coach, but he could not lead his club to another title before he took over.

Passarella, a strict disciplinarian, was almost everybody's choice to take over from Alfio Basile after the World Cup following his successful campaign with River Plate in the four years as their coach.

But this season's opening tournament champions could not repeat in the closing championship. Since the contest restarted, following the five-week break, River Plate have picked up only one out of five points and are now out of the running.

With three games to go the championship is topped by unfancied Huracan — one of the so-called "big six" but without a title since 1973 — a point ahead of Independiente.

San Lorenzo, whose failure to hold on to their best players could cost them the title, are a point behind.

Their latest arrival, Brazilian Paulo Silas, has revitalised them in the final stages, scoring all their goals. But Honduras striker Eduardo Bennett has gone to Portugal's Benfica and midfield international Nestor Gorosito has been transferred to Chileans Universidad Catolica.

Popular Boca Juniors continue to slide down the table. The fans are calling for coach Cesar Menotti's head but Menotti pointed out: "When I came to the club the players were already there."

Racing Club parted company with Carlos Babington, and put their 51st coach since 1970 at the helm. He is Rodolfo Della Pica, who had been their junior team coach.

Velez Sarsfield are near the bottom because they have been fielding reserve teams in league games while competing in the Libertadores Cup, but the two clubs most likely to go down are Gimnasia y Tiro (Salta) and Estudiantes de La Plata.

Basile: *Only six defeats*

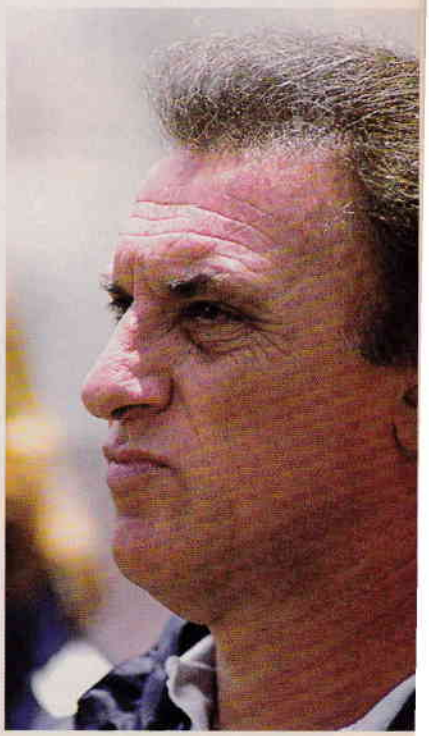
ARGENTINA's national coach, Alfio Basile, and his staff officially handed in their resignation a month after the World Cup, although they will collect their salaries until the end of the year, when their contracts run out.

Nobody seemed sad to see them go, although Basile's record was impressive. He took Argentina through 50 internationals from February 1991 to July this year, winning 27, drawing 17 and losing only six, with an 80-45 goals record.

During that time Argentina went through a record 31-match unbeaten run, won the Copa America twice, and the first Intercontinental Cup, among other trophies. But he the "big one" escaped them.

Basile used 59 players with Oscar Ruggeri playing most (44), followed by Sergio Goycochea, the discarded World Cup goalkeeper (38), and Gabriel Batistuta (37).

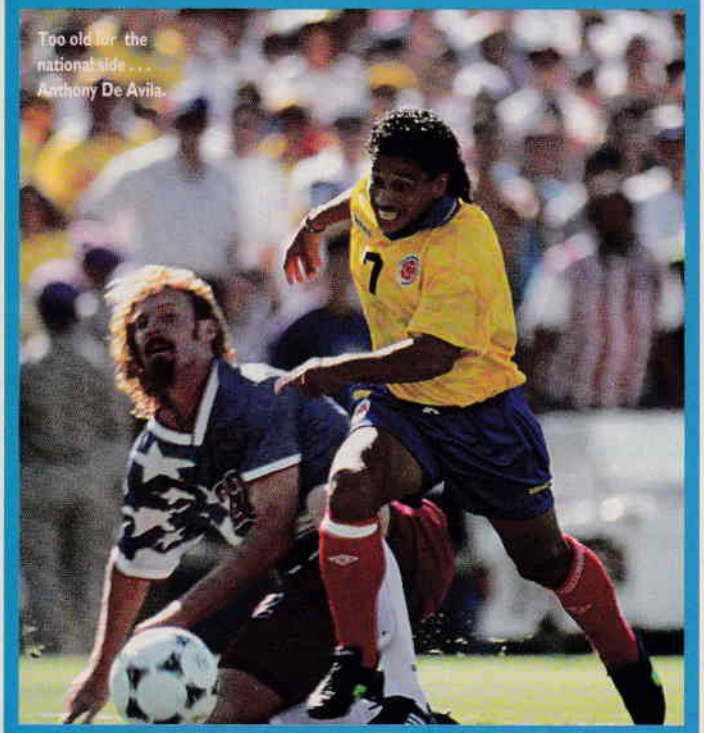
Batistuta scored most goals (24), followed by Claudio Caniggia (8).



On his way . . . Alfio Basile has resigned as national coach of Argentina.

Colombia

Still in disgrace


Too old for the national side . . . Anthony De Avila.

EVER SINCE the Colombian national team's return from the World Cup they have been exposed to attacks, and they cannot defend themselves against most of them.

Colombia as a whole is still stunned by Andres Escobar's murder, and many of the other players have been savagely attacked.

Faustino Asprilla's drinking habits are well known. Carlos Valderrama has been accused of failing to keep fit and Fredy Rincon of not going all out in games after receiving a call from a Colombian witch doctor telling him to be careful, as he was in danger of sustaining an injury which would end his career.

Adolfo Valencia apparently ate in his room, ignoring the diet imposed on the team, and Anthony De Avila and Ivan Valenciano left the camp a few hours before the game against the United States.

But most of the attacks are directed at coach Francisco Maturana, who was said to know about all this, as well as about fights between players and the presence of witch doctors and women at their training camp.

Maturana has now moved to Atletico Madrid and his assistant, Hernan Dario Gomez, has replaced him as national team coach. Gomez's immediate job is to prepare a team for next year's Copa America.

FA sources say that he will include Asprilla, Rincon and Valencia but under strict disciplinary conditions, while Valderrama, Luis Herrera, Gabriel Gomez (his brother), Leonel Alvarez, Alexis Mendoza, Wilson Perez and Anthony De Avila, among others, will be left out because they are over 30.

Meanwhile, the Colombian First Division restarted with very poor attendances. Only 39,000 people attended the eight matches on the first day.

Nacional are four-point leaders in the overall standings while champions Atletico Junior — with their minds more on the Libertadores Cup — are six points behind, just inside the top eight who will qualify for the final round.

Chilly night for Sao Paulo

VELEZ SARSFIELD of Argentina sensationally toppled world club champions Sao Paulo in yet another top-level penalty shoot-out, to win the Libertadores Cup.

Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert was the Velez match-winner, saving two Sao Paulo penalties and scoring his team's second himself in a 5-3 shoot-out victory.

The first leg, in Buenos Aires, produced a 1-0 win for Velez, who had never won the competition before.

Sao Paulo levelled the tie in the second leg — played at the Morumbi Stadium — when Muller scored from the penalty spot in the 33rd minute.

Velez then had defender Jose Cardoza sent off in the 67th minute, but held on to force extra time and penalties.

Velez's win is Argentina's first since River Plate won the trophy in 1986, and prevented Sao Paulo from completing a hat-trick of victories in the competition.

● ***Full report in the next issue.***

Bolivia

Trouble at the top

THE Bolivian FA are worried about FIFA's idea of putting a maximum height on stadiums to be used for World Cup matches.

This would exclude La Paz — 3,600 metres above sea level — where Bolivia play home internationals.

Bolivians say that this originates from complaints by the Brazilian FA last year, when their team lost a World Cup qualifying match, for the first time in 40 years, in La Paz.

They also expect that FIFA's maximum altitude level would leave Mexico City just below, so as not to exclude a venue which has staged two World Cups and where influential FIFA vice-president Guillermo Canedo lives.

Bolivians also say that if such a rule were made, other venues should be banned — such as Rio de Janeiro, where the heat and humidity mean visiting players have difficulty adapting.

Meanwhile Bolivians also have problems at home where the national championship has been postponed as a result of labour disputes with players.

Several players have started lawsuits against their clubs for non-payment of salaries.

The World Cup coach, Xavier Azkargorta, has told soccer officials in no uncertain terms that it is all their fault.

Bolivar, the only club who remained active in the Libertadores Cup, dismissed their Argentinian coach, Omar Pastoriza, as soon as they were eliminated in the quarter-finals.

Chile

UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA, unbeaten after 10 games, top the table by four points from Universidad de Chile, who have a game in hand.

The leaders have three Argentinian internationals in their side — Alberto Acosta (top scorer with 10), Nestor Gorrosito and Sergio Vazquez.

Defending champions Colo Colo look out of it 10 points from the top, but have a game in hand.

Ecuador

Police on the beat

ESCOLI, the police club who won promotion last season, won the first stage of the championship, and a bonus point for the final round. They were a point ahead of the army club, Nacional, with defending champions Emelec two further points back.

Barcelona, the vice-champions, who swapped one Argentinian coach (Jorge Habegger) for another (Miguel Lopez), failed to impress and finished seventh.

As the tournament ended, Emelec also dismissed their Argentinian coach, Mario Zababria.

The second tournament was being played with the 12 clubs in two groups to pick six teams to join Espoli and Nacional in the final round.

Acosta . . . top scorer in Chile.

Uruguay

Penarol stripped of their crown

PENAROL won the Uruguayan opening championship by a point from Defensor Sporting, but then lost it.

The disciplinary committee finally took action on a two-month-old incident at the classic Penarol-Nacional clash, and decided to take four points off each of the two teams.

This was the result of clashes between hooligans, during which a 15-year-old stabbed a 16-year-old Nacional fan to death.

This was the first time in Uruguay that a club had forfeited a title — which was awarded to Defensor — and the harshest punishment ever meeted out.

Apart from the four points, the clubs will also lose another two each in the closing championship and were fined $5,700 while their members — who get in free at home games — must pay for their tickets until the end of the season.

Penarol protested and said they would not play in the closing championship unless an extraordinary general meeting of members — due to be held at press time — decided otherwise.

Defensor will now play the eventual closing championship winners for the season's title.

The top scorer in the opening championship was Osvaldo Canobbio (Nacional) with 10 goals, followed by Dario Silva and Marcelo Otero (Penarol) on eight.

Gates continue to be very low and clubs are struggling financially. The current season almost did not start because clubs owed banks and players enormous amounts.

Now Uruguayan soccer has signed its soul away to foreign TV companies as their own offered much less money. An Argentinian firm, with a monopoly at home, has brought the rights for League games until 2004, while a Brazilian company have the rights for Uruguay's international matches.

This is expected to help soccer out of the financial doldrums as the country prepares to stage next year's South American Championship.

● **URUGUAYAN International Adrian Paz** *(above)* **has been signed by Ipswich Town from Penarol. Ipswich paid £1million for the 26-year-old striker who has played 24 times for his country, scoring eight goals.**

● **IN URUGUAY,** HECTOR NUNEZ, who has coached local clubs and in Spain, has been appointed Uruguayan national team coach with a contract up to August 1995 and after the next Copa America, to be held in Uruguay.

He wants former Uruguayan international striker Fernando Morena as assistant.

● IN PERU, **leaders Sporting Cristal set up a Peruvian record with an 11-1 win over Defensor Lima, which took their total to 45 goals in 14 games.**

They lead current champions Universitario de Deportes — celebrating their 70th anniversary — by four points, but two of these are bonus points obtained for winning the season's pre-season tournament.

● **IN CHILE,** ELIAS FIGUEROA, one of the country's best-known ex-internationals, took over as coach of ailing First Division club Palestino.

ERIC WEIL

ARGENTINA
National A Division — *closing championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huracan	16	9	4	3	21	16	22
Independiente	16	6	9	1	22	11	21
San Lorenzo	16	8	4	4	22	15	20
Rosario Central	16	6	6	4	22	22	19
Platense	16	6	6	4	22	22	18
River Plate	16	6	5	5	21	12	17
Banfield	16	7	3	6	18	16	17
Racing Club	16	5	7	4	11	10	17
Belgrano Cordoba	16	6	5	5	15	15	17
Lanus	16	6	5	5	20	21	17
Boca Juniors	16	5	6	5	20	17	16
Argentinos Juniors	16	3	10	3	19	19	16
Esgrima	16	5	5	6	17	19	15
Newell's Old Boys	16	6	3	7	12	16	15
Deportivo	16	3	8	5	11	18	14
FC Oeste	16	5	3	8	13	17	13
Velez Sarsfield	16	3	6	7	18	25	12
Tiro Salta	16	3	6	7	13	21	12
Estudiantes	16	4	4	8	16	15	12
Dep. Mandiyu	16	2	6	8	13	23	10

URUGUAY
First Division — *opening championship (final standings)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor Sporting	12	7	3	2	16	10	17
Basanez	12	6	4	2	14	12	16
Penarol*	12	9	0	3	29	9	14
Cerro	12	5	4	3	14	10	14
Wanderers	12	6	2	4	17	18	14
River Plate	12	5	2	5	16	17	12
Nacional*	12	6	3	3	24	13	11
Progreso	12	4	2	6	17	17	10
Liverpool	12	3	3	6	11	16	9
Rampla Juniors	12	2	5	5	10	17	9
Danubio	12	2	5	5	8	15	9
Central Espanol	12	2	4	6	7	18	8
Bella Vista	12	0	5	7	13	25	5

** Forfeited four points each for incidents between fans at their game.*

ECUADOR
First Division — *1st stage (final standings)*

After 22 games: 1) Espoli 31pts; 2) Nacional 30; 3) Emelec 28; 4) Deportivo Quito 26; 5) Universidad Catolica 24; 6) Aucas 22; 7) Barcelona 21; 8) Liga Dep. Universitaria 20; 9) Green Cross 18; 10) Delfin 16; 11) Cuenca 15; 12) Valdez 13.

PERU
National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal*	14	12	0	2	45	7	26
Universitario	14	11	0	3	19	8	22
Alianza Lima	14	8	4	2	32	12	20
Dep. Municipal	14	9	1	4	22	15	19
Ciclista Lima	14	8	1	5	23	23	17
Melgar FC	14	5	4	5	16	17	14
Sport Boys	14	6	1	7	17	16	13
Juan Aurich	14	5	3	6	13	16	13
Deportivo Sipesa	14	4	4	6	12	15	12
Carlos Manucci	14	3	6	5	14	15	12
Dep. San Agustin	14	5	2	7	20	23	12
Leon de Huanuco	14	5	2	7	15	22	12
Union Minas	14	5	1	8	14	21	11
Alianza At. Sullana	14	5	0	9	15	28	10
Cienciano	14	3	2	9	12	20	8
Defensor Lima	14	1	3	10	14	42	5

** Two bonus points awarded as opening tournament winners*

PARAGUAY
National Championship

After 17 games: 1) Cerro Porteno (Asuncion) 28pts; 2) Olimpia 25; 3) Guarani 24; 4) Ay. Colegiales, Sport Colombia 23; 6) Cerro Cora, Sportivo Luqueno 22; 8) Nacional, 12 de Octubre (Itagua) 18; 10) Boqueron (Del Este) 17; 11) Presidente Hayes, Humaita 16; 13) Libertad, Trinidense 14; 15) River Plate 13; 16) Sol de America, Cerro Porteno (Del Este) 12; 18) Pettirossi (Itapua) 9; 19) Guarani (Oviedo) 8; 20) 8 de Diciembre (Caaguazu) 6.

CHILE
First Division

1) Universidad Catolica (pld. 10) 19pts; 2) Universidad de Chile (9), O'Higgins (10) 15; 4) Antofagasta (10), Everton (10) 12; 6) Colo Colo (9), Temuco (9), Union Espanola (10), Coquimbo Unido (10), Osorno (10) 9; 11) Cobresal (10) 8; 12) Atacama (10), Cobreloa (10) 7; 14) Rangers (9) 6; 15) Palestino (10), La Serena (10) 5.

COLOMBIA
First Division

After 27 games: 1) Nacional 37 pts; 2) Millonarios, America, Once Caldas 31; 5) Envigado, Independiente Medellin, At. Junior 29; 8) Deportivo Cali 28; 9) Cucuta 27; 10) Independiente Santa Fe, Huil 25; 12) Quindio 24; 13) Union Magdalena 23; 14) Pereira 21; 15) Cortulua, Bucaramanga 20.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinity Treble

TRINITY from Trinidad and Tobago won the third Caribbean Professional Championship by beating Cornwall County Lions of Jamaica 1-0 in the final.

The match remained goalless until six minutes from the end of extra time, when Angus Eve scored the decider from close range. Arnold Dwarika of Trinity was the tournament's top scorer, with six goals. Trinity's victory completed a Trinidad and Tobago treble in the competition, following T&T Hawks in 1992 and Malta Carib Alcons last year.

MEXICO

Bwalya joins Beenhakker

EX-DUTCH national coach Leo Beenhakker has recruited Zambian international Kalusha Bwalya, formerly with PSV Eindhoven in Holland, as well as Mexican World Cup squad members Raul Gutierrez from Atlante and Joaquin Del Olmo (Vera Cruz). Another international, Ramon Ramirez, has left Santos for Guadalajara, with Benjamin Galindo moving in the opposite direction.

Baron signs for four more years

MEXICO's Miguel Mejia Baron is one of the few World Cup coaches who has had his contract renewed — for another four years, until after the next World Cup in France.

Financial details were not disclosed, but they are believed to be excellent.

Eight international players who had not renewed contracts with their clubs are now for sale.

Universidad Autonoma de Mexico put a price of $4million on their international goalkeeper, Jorge Campos, and $2million on Ramirez Perales.

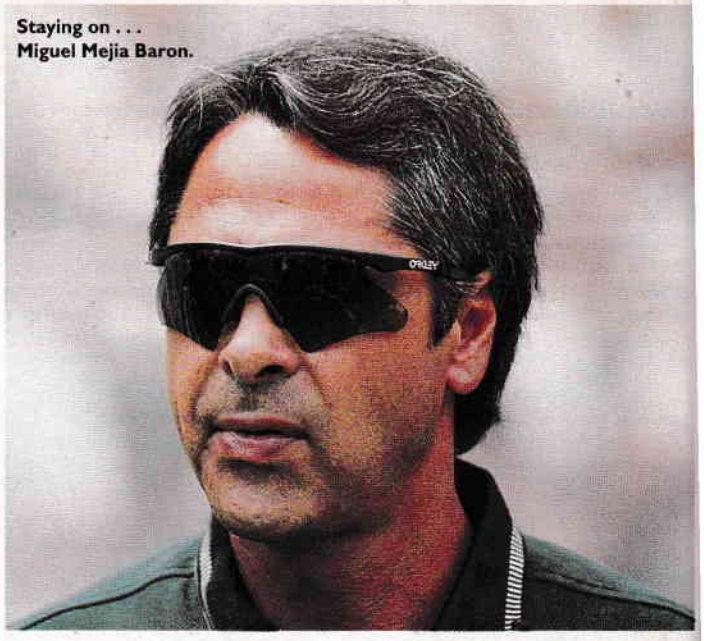
Santos price midfielder Ramon Ramirez at $3.4million, while others were on offer at over $2million.

So far there have not been any takers, while clubs continue to spend lower amounts on foreigners such as Colombia's most capped played, defender Luis Perea.

He was due to join Neza as soon as his club, Atletico Junior, finished their Libertadores Cup campaign.

HONDURAS

THE 10 First Division clubs have been split into two sections to contest the Honduran Cup, with the top two from each going into the semi-finals. The two previous holders, Real Espana (1992) and Real Maya (1993) are in Group One with Olimpia, Victoria and Platense. Group Two comprises Motagua, Marathon, Vida, Progreseno and Broncos.



Staying on . . . Miguel Mejia Baron.

Beenhakker's boy . . . Kalusha Bwalya.

CANADA

What World Cup was that?

AZTECA STADIUM in Mexico City on a Monday in August . . . and the crowd of 112,000 were going wild. But this was not soccer.

This was American gridiron football, with Dallas Cowboys taking on Houston Oilers in a National Football League pre-season game. This was the largest crowd ever to watch a game in the NFL, and may well lead to a franchise for Mexico. The game, of course, did no favours for the turf, which looked more like a ploughed field by the time the football players had finished with it. But while the NFL try to assume an international image, the domestic soccer season in the United States and Canada sputters along much the same as usual, with little or no noticeable spin-off from the World Cup in terms of interest and attendance.

Two days after the World Cup semi-final, in which Italy beat Bulgaria, an "official" crowd of 1,709 saw Toronto Rockets defeat Montreal Impact.

Yet within minutes of the Italian victory, the streets of Toronto were crowded with an estimated 33,000 soccer fans celebrating the Azzuri's triumph.

Rockets play in the American Professional Soccer League, the top professional soccer outfit in the United States and Canada at this time, and averaged 1,660 for five home games. That is the lowest average attendance, but at the halfway mark no club in the seven-team league (Houston dropped out) averaged over 5,000.

With six weeks left, Montreal Impact lead over Seattle Sounders, with Los Angeles Salsa, who will play in the Mexican league this winter, in third place.

COLIN JOSE

GUATEMALA

Three-point plan

GUATEMALA adopted three points for a win in the 12-club championship, which began with teams split into three groups.

Municipal, who won both the regular season tournament and the final round Cup last year, lost their opening game 2-0 to Amatitlan.

THE SEASON began with the Guatemalan Cup for the 12 First Division clubs, divided into three groups.

A lot of attention centres on Milton Nunez from Honduras, a player known as "Tyson" because of his resemblance to former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. He scored the winner for Comunicaciones when they beat Amatitlan 1-0 in the Central Division.

Aurora and Municipal also contest that group, with Xelaju, Escuintia, Suchitepequex and Chiquimullia in the South-East section and Mictlan, Coban, Sacachispas and Izabal in the North-East.

SCOTT GLEBA

GUATEMALAN CUP *(after three rounds)*

Central Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Municipal	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Aurore	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Comunicaciones	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Amatitlan	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Souteast Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Escuintla	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Suchitepequez	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Xelaju	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Chiquimulilla	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Northeast Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coban Imperial	3	2	1	0	7	0	7
Sacachispas	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Mictlan	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Izabal JC	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

An African World Cup? Forget it!

AFRICAN SOCCER IS STEPPING UP ITS DRIVE FOR WORLD RECOGNITION.

GEORGE OBIERO ASSESSES THE CHANCES

AFRICAN soccer chiefs are demanding that the World Cup finals be rotated on a continental basis, despite strong opposition from Europe.

Sadly, however, the prospects of an African nation successfully playing host to the World Cup seem far, far away.

"It's time to give everyone a fair slice of the cake," says Issa Hayatou, the Cameroonian president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), and he is not alone in this school of thought.

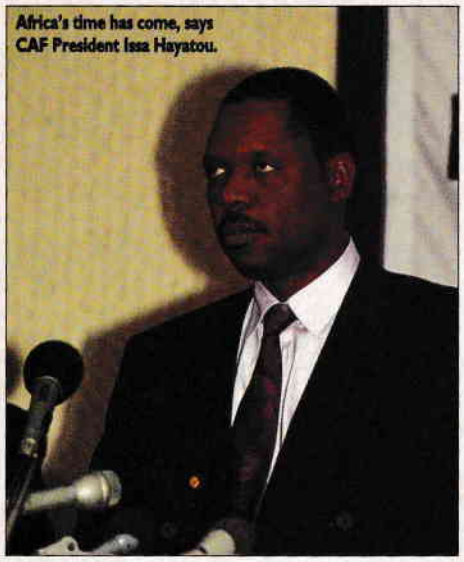
Ambitious nations in the continent long for the day one of them will host football's premier international tournament.

Since the first World Cup, in Uruguay in 1930, the event has been staged either in Europe (eight times) or the Americas (seven). Morocco were beaten by the United States for this year's tournament and by France for the 1998 finals.

Japan and South Korea are rivals to become the first Asian country to host the finals, in 2002, after which a European country expects to host the competition again. "I don't see why the Europeans should expect it when no African country has been chosen," says Hayatou.

Morocco and South Africa, also candidates for the 2004 Olympics, probably would be interested in putting on soccer's showcase event. That, however, seems a distant prospect. World Cup candidates must provide eight 40,000-seat stadia and at least one with a minimum 80,000 capacity for the final. In Mexico in 1986, the opening and final matches were staged at the Aztec Stadium in Mexico City, but matches were also played at eight other venues.

Fit to stage the World Cup? Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg.



Africa's time has come, says CAF President Issa Hayatou.

The 1990 finals were spread over 12 grounds, and Italy spent $5.6 billion — double the original forecast — on improving or building stadia, roads, car parks, railways, communications, hotels and tourism services. This year's tournament in the United States was spread across New York, Orlando, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Washington DC, San Francisco and Los Angeles. And, starting with the 1998 World Cup in France, the finals will be enlarged to feature 32 teams — posing an even bigger organisational headache.

Morocco, one of Africa's leading soccer nations, has only two international-class stadiums, one in Casablanca with a capacity of 80,000 people, the other in Rabat, holding up to 60,000.

Joao Havelange, the FIFA president, says Morocco's bid to stage the 1994 or 1998 World Cup has been rejected because of inadequate infrastructure.

"I've been at some competitions down there where it takes 40 minutes to get a phone line to Europe," he said. "You imagine the situation at a World Cup with thousands of journalists trying to phone at the same time! Passion is one thing, organisation is another."

Which country then, in Africa, could fit properly into the World Cup shoes?

South Africa seems to be the continent's best bet, with modern and highly-developed transport, banking, manufacturing and other facilities, plus a strong sporting tradition. But it lacks the experience of staging an event of the magnitude of the World Cup following its long absence from the international stage due to apartheid.

FIFA, impressed by the success achieved at this year's World Cup in America, are thinking of staging another finals in the US.

The large and enthusiastic crowds, the near-flawless organisation and the increase in the number of finalists for future events may tip the balance America's way.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni says: "We go to France in 1998 and Asia in 2002. Germany want to hold the event in 2006. Then, who knows? It could be the US again."

This would be a blow for Africa. But realists know that there is little chance of a World Cup there for many years to come.

DOUBLE SHOCK IN CUPS

LEADING clubs from two World Cup qualifying nations were surprisingly knocked out of African club competitions.

After the ignominy of poor performances by both Cameroon and Morocco at the World Cup, there were further blows with the elimination of Wydad Casablanca and Canon Yaounde from the second round of the African Champions Cup and Cup-winners Cup respectively.

Wydad, who won the top trophy in African club soccer two years ago, were beaten 3-0 on aggregate by outsiders AS Sogara of Gabon, while Agaza Lome of Togo humbled Canon Yaounde 3-2.

Wydad lost 1-0 at home to the Gabonese champions in the first leg and then conceded a further two goals in the second, in Libreville.

Agaza caused a big shock with a 3-1 triumph over Canon in the first leg in Lome, and then held out in the return match, losing only 1-0.

Both two-legged ties were postponed from May because of the World Cup in America.

NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

KROL TAKES CHARGE

DUTCH coaches seem the flavour of the month in Egypt after the appointment of former World Cup defender Ruud Krol as coach of the Egyptian Olympic team.

Another Dutchman, Cor Pot, is coach of First Division club Port Said, while Theo Verlangen has just signed a contract to coach Ismailia.

ALGERIA

ZINEDINE ZIDANE has disappointed Algerian officials and fans by opting to play for France. He was born in Lens, of Algerian parents, and plays for Bordeaux. Zidane scored twice on his international debut in a 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic.

MOROCCO

Mohammed Ammari is the new national team coach, replacing Abdellah Blinda after the disappointment of the recent World Cup finals in the United States.

Ammari was the former coach of Raja Casablanca and played for Royal Armed Forces, one-time African club champions.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SWAZILAND

SWAZILAND have withdrawn from the qualifiers for the 1996 African Nations Cup after a row over players' salaries. They were due to play Cameroon in a group one qualifier on September 4 but FA President Adam Mthethwa said the national team has now been dismantled.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Financial problems forced Kenya to withdraw their squad from the World Under-20 Championship, two days before they were due to play their first match.

CENTRAL AFRICA

GABON

Alain da Costa, a long-time figure in domestic football in Gabon, has taken over as coach of the national team.

Da Costa replaces Jean Thissen, who was fired after the country's dismal performance at the African Nations Cup last March.

Gabon were the first team to be eliminated from the 12-nation tournament.

ZAMBIA

Former Zambia international Dick Chama is the new national coach. He replaces former Chelsea manager Ian Porterfield, who has left for Saudi Arabia.

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

AHMODU SHUAIBU, coach of BCC Lions of Gboko, has taken over the national side from Clemens Westerhof, who resigned after the World Cup.

IVORY COAST

STADE ABIDJAN were shock winners of the Ivoranian Cup with a 4-2 win over highly-fancied Africa Sports, twice holders of the trophy. Stade's 4-2 win over their city rivals included a hat-trick from Salifou Diarassouba.

RESULTS

NSL CASTLE LEAGUE

FRIDAY, MAY 20

WITS UNIVERSITY 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 1 (P Masinga 19)

SATURDAY, MAY 21

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 6 (Kowandera 1, Jackson 4, 48, 85, Maboe 44, 56)
ROYAL TIGERS 0

QWAQWA STARS 1 (Kazadi 36)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Leepo 87)

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Jowa 7)
PRETORIA CITY 1 (Siwisa 25)

WITBANK ACES 2 (Shili 65, Biyela 66)
REAL ROVERS 2 (Bapela 18, 24)

KAIZER CHIEFS 1
ORLANDO PIRATES 0 *(abandoned after 72mins by crowd riot — Chiefs awarded 2pts).*

SUNDAY, MAY 22

AMAZULU 0
HELLENIC 2 (Tucker 68, Bester 89)

UMTATA BUCKS 3 (Momo 27, Wilfred Mugeyi 46, Augustine 78)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0 (Radford 89)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

AMAZULU 1 (Ndiaye 8)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Msakhaye 36)

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 6 (B Masinga 35, 50, 54, P. Masinga 63, 67, Mudau 89)
QWAQWA STARS 3 (Maphutse 75, Manana 83, Ngaduane 86)

TUESDAY, MAY 31

AMAZULU 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (B. Masinga 42, P. Masinga 70)

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Reed 71, Maboe 80)
UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Wilfred Mugeyi 60)

HELLENIC 1 (Stober 51)
WITBANK ACES 3 (Nxumalo 46, Mabena 70, Biyela 84)

KAIZER CHIEFS 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 0

MOROKA SWALLOWS 5 (Makgaledisa 22, Leepo 33, Makhobola 51, Sekano 72, Cousins 89)
ROYAL TIGERS 2 (Zwane 54 pen, Khumalo 70)

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Mkhalele 34, Nsuada 80)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0

PRETORIA CITY 1 (Steenkamp 30)
QWAQWA STARS 3 (Kazadi 11, 69, Ngaduane 57)

REAL ROVERS 1 (Rapatsa 13)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 2 (Dlamini 10, Koumantarakis 70)

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Pitso 40)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Gordon 50)

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

HELLENIC 3 (Stober 1, Pietersen 69, Young 89)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

WITS UNIVERSITY 0
ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Motale)

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Modukanele, Jackson)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Donnelly)

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0
WITBANK ACES 0

MOROKA SWALLOWS 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 4 (Modise 22, 77, S. Rodrigues 23, Bartlett 55)

QWAQWA STARS 4 (Ngaduane 2, Khuse, Mucherowa)
ROYAL TIGERS 0

UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Wilfred Mugeyi 5, Donnelly 87)
AMAZULU 0

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

MOROKA SWALLOWS 2 (Mabuza 40, Cousins 64)
REAL ROVERS 1 (Bapela 62)

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

WITBANK ACES 1 (Skosana 60)
AMAZULU 2 (Nzimande 8, Ndiaye 66)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 3 (Arries, Jackson 2)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 0

WITBANK ACES 2 (Nxumalo 57, Shili 89)
PRETORIA CITY 0

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

AMAZULU 1 (Ndiaye 16)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0

CAPE TOWN SPURS 2 (Mngomeni 39, Jantjies 70)
HELLENIC 2 (Pietersen 32, Byrne 59)

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (Lebese 70, Mooki 82)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 4 (B Masinga 39 pen, 49, 84, Mudau 81)
PRETORIA CITY 2 (Maake 40, MacGregor 53)

MOROKA SWALLOWS 0
UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Wilfred Mugeyi 15)

REAL ROVERS 1 (Mmola 85)
WITS UNIVERSITY 0

ROYAL TIGERS 1 (Dlongolo 48)
ORLANDO PIRATES 4 (Nsunda 2, 56, Fish 34, Lekwane 78)

QWAQWA STARS 3 (Ngaduane 60, Kazadi 80, Mucherowa 86)

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Antonio 88)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
AMAZULU 1 (Nzimande 44)

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 1 (P. Masinga 22)

WITBANK ACES 1 (Skosana 70)
ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Maponyane 51)

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

HELLENIC 1 (Stober 4)
PRETORIA CITY 0

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

AMAZULU 1 (Shusha 83)
WITBANK ACES 0

WITS UNIVERSITY 3 (Hannon 6, 40, Ellis 17)
ROYAL TIGERS 0

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Lupiya 81)

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 2 (Niemach 2)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Leepo 64)

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 1 (Zwane 73)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0

REAL ROVERS 0
ORLANDO PIRATES 3 (Mwakapuki 7, Mkhalele 25, Maponyane 75)

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Masilo 61)
QWAQWA STARS 1 (Ngaduane 57)

UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Semudi 67, Rula 77)
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Amukola 85)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

KAIZER CHIEFS 3 (Shaw 5, 46, Amukola 81)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Motaung 12, B. Masinga 74)

SUNDAY, JULY 3

KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Shaw 75)
ROYAL TIGERS 0

WITBANK ACES 0
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0

TUESDAY, JULY 5

REAL ROVERS 2 (Rapatsa 67, Sibiya 88)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Mudau 49, Wille 79)

FRIDAY, JULY 8

WITS UNIVERSITY 2 (Otiti 16, 64)
WITBANK ACES 1 (Shili 35)

SATURDAY, JULY 9

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
ORLANDO PIRATES 0

KAIZER CHIEFS 0
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0

SUNDAY, JULY 10

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Sakala)
HELLENIC 2 (Bester, Philander)

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Leepo 43)
AMAZULU 0

PRETORIA CITY 2 (A. Mahlangu 41, Maake 52)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Lekgetla 81)

QWAQWA STARS 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0

REAL ROVERS 2 (Sebola 49, Bapela 52)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0

ROYAL TIGERS 0
UMTATA BUCKS 0

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

PRETORIA CITY 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 0

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Sokhoto 65)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (B. Masinga 7, Mudau 25)

FRIDAY, JULY 15

CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Bartlett 33)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Mphafudi 20)

SATURDAY, JULY 16

ORLANDO PIRATES 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 0

SUNDAY, JULY 17

AMAZULU 0
UMTATA BUCKS 0

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0.

KAIZER CHIEFS 3 (Lebese 25, Amukola 65, Khumalo 80)
PRETORIA CITY 0

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Wille 10, Mudau 12)
REAL ROVERS 1 (Rapatsa 30)

ROYAL TIGERS 0
QWAQWA STARS 2 ((Moloi 70, Ngaduane 85)

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 3 (Seakamela 60, 78, Serathi 88)
HELLENIC 2 (Byrne 68 pen, P das Neves 87)

WITBANK ACES 0
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Dlamini 38)

SUNDAY, JULY 24

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Jackson 60, Maboe 80)
REAL ROVERS 1 (Bapela 32)

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 2 (Goliath 15, 60)
PRETORIA CITY 1 (Maake 88)

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Mabena 48)

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Lekwane 88)
WITBANK ACES 0

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Koloba 44)
ROYAL TIGERS 0

UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Raepane 24 og, Wilfred Mugeyi 77)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0

TUESDAY, JULY 26

WITS UNIVERSITY 0
MOROKA SWALLOWS 0

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

AMAZULU 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 0

HELLENIC 2 (Byrne 6, P das Neves 52)
QWAQWA STARS 2 (Mucherowa 5, Khuse 89)

FRIDAY, JULY 29

CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Lupiya 33)
UMTATA BUCKS 0

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Radford 18)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Sephadi 43)

SATURDAY, JULY 30

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Mwakapuki 50, Moloi 57)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0

SUNDAY, JULY 31

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0
WITBANK ACES 1 (Mahlangu 11)

QWAQWA STARS 2 (Ngaduane, Moloi)
AMAZULU 0

REAL ROVERS 0
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Sipho Sikhonde 50)

ROYAL TIGERS 0
PRETORIA CITY 2 (Maake, Kungwane)

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 2 (Motsoane 30, Masilo 60)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0

DIARY

MON 1 AUG

DENMARK: AGF Aarhus bring central defender Torben Piecknik home from Liverpool.

GREECE: National team coach Alketas Panagoulias writes to the federation offering his resignation in the wake of the World Cup flop.

HUNGARY: Kalman Meszoly, once implicated in match-fixing allegations, is appointed national manager for the third time in his career. Meszoly left Vasas after the club were relegated last season. He served as national manager from 1980 to 1983 and from 1990 to September 1991, after which he took up a coaching position in Saudi Arabia.

ITALY: Inter complete the purchase of World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca from Sampdoria in an exchange deal which sees former national team players Walter Zenga and Riccardo Ferri moving in the opposite direction . . . Brazilian World Cup defender Marcio Santos joins Fiorentina from Bordeaux in a £2million deal.

SPAIN: Barcelona's new-season presentation goes ahead without Romario, to the anger of coach Johan Cruyff, who says: "This demonstrates a lack of respect towards his teammates" . . . Brazil's World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira arrived to take over Valencia. He says: "I have great hopes for my new team and I can't wait to start work."

TUE 2 AUG

GERMANY: Karlsruhe bring yet another German home from Italy, this time midfielder Thomas Hassler from Roma for £2.5million.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven steal a march on the rest of big-spending Europe by paying £4million for Brazilian wonderboy Ronaldo from Cruzeiro.

ITALY: Fiorentina's Stefan Effenberg turns down the chance of a transfer to Tottenham and opens talks, instead, with Werder Bremen.

WED 3 AUG

ACTION: South American Cup-holders Sao Paulo defeat Union Espanola 4-3 to qualify on a 5-4 aggregate for a semi-final tie against former champions Olimpia of Paraguay.

GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen say they are poised to complete the signing of top young US talent, Claudio Reyna, who had to sit out the World Cup finals because he was injured.

ITALY: Roberto Baggio, Final victim of the World Cup shoot-out in Pasadena, says FIFA should reintroduce the option of a replay if the Final is all-square after 120 minutes . . . US World Cup defender Alexi Lalas has an easy debut for Padova in a 7-0 victory over a minor amateur team in a pre-season practice game.

SPAIN: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff, responding to Romario's insistence on defying the club and taking a two-week holiday in Rio, says Romario can buy out his contract for £8million. Cruyff says: "Romario should be happy that he can play at Barcelona. Without him we were Spanish champions three times in a row and won the European Cup. With Romario we only managed to secure the championship in the last minute and, above all, we played an appalling European Cup Final."

THU 4 AUG

BRAZIL: Romario, defying Barcelona from Rio, says he will happily pay whatever fine the club impose but it will not disturb his holiday intentions.

ENGLAND: Aston Villa spring a domestic transfer surprise by buying controversial centre forward John Fashanu from Wimbledon for £1.35million.

GERMANY: Werder Bremen call off talks with Stefan Effenberg after failing to reach agreement with the Fiorentina midfielder over personal terms.

MOROCCO: Morocco's new national coach is Mohamed Ammari, a former player of FAR who has coached Kawkab Marrakech, Raja Casablanca and El-Jadida. His first match since succeeding Abdullah Blinda will be against Burkina Faso on September 4 in the African Cup.

FRI 5 AUG

ACTION: In the Ibrox tournament semi-finals, Rangers lose 4-2 to Sampdoria and Manchester United lose on penalties to Newcastle.

BRAZIL: Fluminense sell World Cup-winning left-back Branco to Corinthians.

ENGLAND: England midfielder Paul Ince is given an ultimatum by Manchester United to sign a new contract or leave the club. United chairman Martin Edwards says: "I don't want to be confrontational but we have made him a big offer and I cannot break our wage structure for one player."

FRANCE: Champions Paris Saint-Germain have two players — striker Daniel Bravo and defender Francis Lacer — sent off as they slump to their first defeat of the season, 2-0 at Strasbourg.

HOLLAND: Ajax veteran Frank Rijkaard *(left)* says he is retiring from the Dutch national team because he intends to quit altogether at the season's end.

UNITED STATES: The first major post-World Cup survey shows that 44 per cent of American adults watched at least one World Cup game on television but 69 per cent are not concerned about whether a new league championship is launched.

SAT 6 AUG

ACTION: Sampdoria triumph in the Ibrox tournament, defeating Newcastle 3-1 in the final. Eric Cantona is sent off as Manchester United lose 1-0 to Rangers in the third-place play-off.

GERMANY: MSV Duisburg win the battle for Nigerian World Cup midfielder Emmanuel Amunike, as FIFA rules in their favour and against Sporting Lisbon in a dispute over who had rightfully signed the player.

PORTUGAL: Benfica spend £3million on Roma's Argentinian World Cup winger, Claudio Caniggia.

SUN 7 AUG

ACTION: Arsenal beat Napoli 1-0 to win the Makita Cup at Highbury.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich, reduced to 10 men by the first-half expulsion of Oliver Kreuzer, lose 3-1 to Werder Bremen in extra time in the German Supercup.

ITALY: Napoli director Vincenzo Pinzarrone is arrested for depositing forged currency certificates. The money was allegedly to have been used in the player purchases of Andre Cruz from Standard Liege and Alain Boghossian from Marseille.

FRI 5 AUG

BRAZIL: Romario says he intends to wait until August 20 before rejoining his Spanish club Barcelona.

CAMEROON: Jules Nyongha is appointed new national manager of Cameroon in succession to World Cup boss Henri Michel and is given a pledge of non-interference by the government.

ENGLAND: Notts County sign Nigerian World Cup defender Michael Emenalo from RWD Molenbeek of Belgium.

ITALY: Napoli dismiss director Vincenzo Pinzarrone following his arrest on charges of possessing forged Italian treasury certificates worth $2.3 million. Napoli's corporate sponsor, Record Cucine, takes over his 25 per cent shareholding.

ROMANIA: Anghel Iordanescu, coach of Romania's national team, says he will stay on to honour his contract — which runs until 1996 — despite lucrative offers from abroad. But Iordanescu goes public on his opposition to the federation's acceptance of a friendly against England at Wembley in October. Iordanescu says: "Such a game will not benefit our European Championship preparations because no other opponent in our group is similar in style to British soccer."

TEAM OF THE MONTH

VELEZ SARSFELD . . .

for their victory over Sao Paulo, earning them their first Libertadores Cup (match-winning keeper Jose Chilavert, pictured left).

UNITED STATES: US World Cup winger Cobi Jones will join team-mate Roy Wegerle in England with Coventry City after a £300,000 transfer for a one-year contract.

TUE 9 AUG

ACTION: European club competition opens with the preliminary round first leg matches in the UEFA Cup. Top scorers are Polish champions Gornik who react to their "relegation" by defeating Shamrock Rovers 7-0.

BRAZIL: Mario Zagalo, assistant to Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira for the last three years, is appointed in full charge for a third spell following Parreira's departure for Valencia . . . Romario may further extend his unauthorised holiday to oversee the creation of his Romario Foundation, a project to help Rio street kids. Romario, who is meeting businessmen to obtain finance, says: "I want to leave Brazil with everything resolved. For me, the important thing is to make the foundation viable, and my presence here is fundamental."

COLOMBIA: Faustino Asprilla *(right)* says he will not play again for the national team because of the murder after the World Cup finals of defender Andres Escobar. Asprilla says: "I don't think it's worth risking my life just to play for the national team. After what happened to my friend, I will never return to the national squad. I have closed my account with Colombia." . . . Atletico National's Hernan Dario Gomez accepts, after all, the job of succeeding Francisco Maturana as national manager.

GERMANY: Borussia Monchengladbach bring controversial Stefan Effenberg home from Fiorentina . . . Bayer Leverkusen sign US World Cup midfielder Claudio Reyna.

WED 10 AUG

ACTION: Sao Paulo move closer to a third successive South American cup as they defeat Olimpia of Paraguay 2-1 in a semi-final first leg . . . in the Champions Cup preliminaries, Rangers lose disappointingly by 2-0 away to AEK Athens while Paris Saint-Germain easily beat VAC Samsung of Hungary 3-0 . . . Bayern Munich beat Barcelona 3-0 in the semi-finals of the Stuttgart Jubilee tournament . . . Sporting beat Juventus 1-0 in a Lisbon friendly, part of the Paulo Sousa transfer package.

BRAZIL: Gremio beat Ceara 1-0 in the second leg of the Copa Brasil final

to win the tie 1-0 on aggregate. Gremio qualify for the 1995 South American Libertadores Cup.

DENMARK: Denmark's national squad threaten to boycott the forthcoming European Championship qualifier against Finland in a row over bonus payments. The players are seeking a share in the federation's general sponsorships.

ENGLAND: Newcastle buy Belgian World Cup defender Philippe Albert *(below)* from Anderlecht but suffer a setback when US goalkeeper Brad Friedel is refused a work permit by the

Department of Employment . . . Southampton take Danish Olympic forward Johnny Eklund on loan from Barcelona.

GERMANY: Jorginho says he will quit not only Bayern Munich but German football as well when his contract expires at the end of the season. Jorginho says he would not be averse to ending his career in Japan.

ROMANIA: Steaua sign the club's first-ever sponsorship deal, with the Italian consultancy group CBS International.

SPAIN: Brazilian World Cup midfielder Mazinho leaves Palmeiras to join his Cup-winning boss Carlos Alberto Parreira at Valencia.

TURKEY: Former Golden Boot-winner Tanju Colak is detained in Macedonia and held awaiting

TUE 9 AUG

extradition applications by the Turkish authorities to face a jail sentence on car smuggling charges.

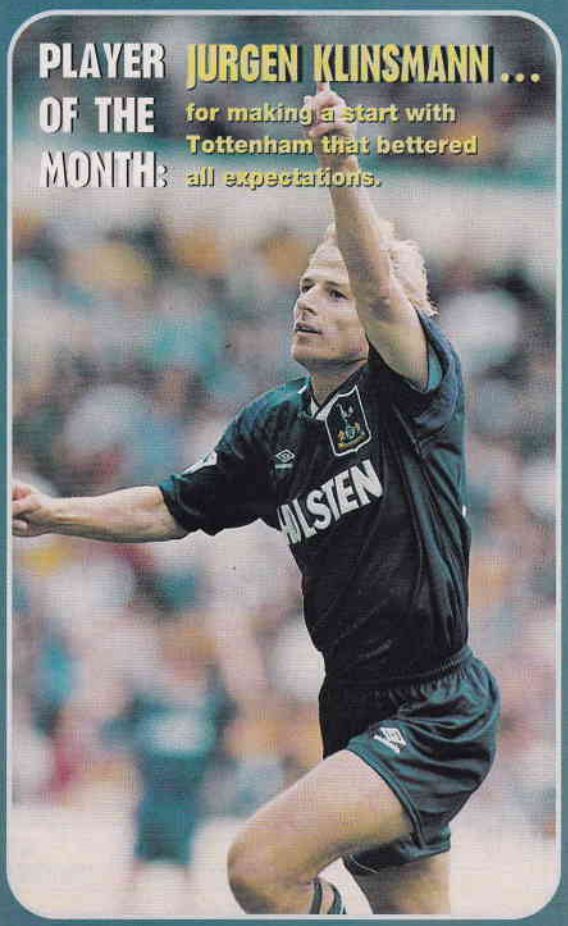
ACTION: In the Cup-winners Cup preliminaries, a famous name makes headlines as Florian Albert (son of the World Cup star of 1966) scores one of Ferencvaros' six goals against Dudelange of Luxembourg . . . Stuttgart beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the final of "their" tournament.

ENGLAND: Zimbabwe goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar leaves Liverpool for Southampton.

ITALY: Milan skipper Franco Baresi says he has changed his mind yet again and does, after all, want to continue playing for the national team. It is the second time Baresi has abandoned a short-lived retirement from the national team.

ARGENTINA: Former World Cup-winning captain Daniel Passarella

(below) is named national manager in succession to Alfio Basile . . . Diego Maradona is ordered to stand trial for shooting at reporters with an air rifle at his villa in Moreno, 20 miles west of Buenos Aires, last February.



OBITUARY

BILLY WRIGHT, who won 105 England caps after being rejected by Wolves as too small, died on September 3, aged 70.

So English football took another saddening blow: in 18 months Bobby Moore, Danny Blanchflower, Sir Matt Busby and now Wright have been taken from the scene they collectively graced for nearly 150 years.

Wright was a one-club man through and through, in the days before money undermined such loyalty. He persuaded Frank Buckley, the Wolves manager, to think again after his initial judgment, and went on to play some 600 games for the club, plus 105 for his country — the first of England's four centurions.

His club honours included one FA Cup win, as captain against Leicester in 1949, and three championships, plus a leading role in those thrilling floodlit encounters against Moscow Spartak and Hungary's mighty Honved, furiously-contested "friendlies" in the days before European competition became commonplace.

Wright retired abruptly as the 1959-60 season was about to start, showing rare anger when demoted to the reserves for the public trial match. He refused to reconsider, so his last first-class appearance turned out to be that against the US the preceding May, when he was England's captain for the 90th time. He had missed only three internationals out of 108 in 13 years — an incredible record.

A spell as manager of Arsenal brought him financial rewards nearer those his reputation merited in the days of the maximum wage for players, but he had little success in a job that he admitted was not to his liking.

Then followed a long spell working as an executive in television, which — coupled with his marriage to Joy of the singing Beverley sisters — enabled him to maintain friendly links with the parallel worlds of sport and entertainment.

He became a director of his old club four years ago, and bravely defied cancer long enough to attend the opening of a stand named in his honour at the rebuilt Molineux ground a few weeks ago.

Billy, you were a hero . . . Wolverhampton Wanderers fans paid a fitting tribute to the late Billy Wright at the Molineux stand named in his honour. The long-serving former Wolves and England captain died on September 3, aged 70.

RUI FILIPE, the FC Porto and Portugal international midfielder, has died at the age of 26, from injuries received in a car crash. Three passengers in the vehicle escaped unhurt when Filipe crashed near Oporto. He had won six international caps and was regarded by Porto coach Bobby Robson as a key man for the coming season.

J.LEAGUE

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA report on ASIA's No.1 League

ZICO'S *grand farewell*

ZICO's three years in Japan will be remembered as the revolutionary era of football history in this country.

He arrived as a player for Sumitomo Metals of the Soccer League's Second Division, who played before crowds of hundreds, not thousands, and was top scorer in that first season, with 21 goals from 22 League matches.

By the time he left, Zico was one of Japan's most celebrated foreign residents, having transformed Sumitomo Metals into Kashima Antlers, winners of the J.League's first Suntory Series and one of the unquestioned power houses of Japanese football.

The road was not always smooth. Zico had harsh words for match officials and was sent off in the first J.League Suntory Championship final, for an ugly spitting incident.

But at the finish, he was made an honorary citizen of Kashima, was feted by the Prime Minister, and waved an emotional goodbye to a packed crowd at Tokyo's National Stadium in a match between Antlers and his old team, Flamengo of Brazil.

Japanese football had never witnessed scenes quite like the Pepsi Cup '94 which, the posters all told us, was even "produced by Zico".

The chanting of his name right around the stadium started long before the match, and the singing never stopped. The Flamengo players looked even more affected than Zico. It seemed that the match might never get started as all sought to have their souvenir photos taken.

The big question was, if Zico were to score, which side would mob him first? The occasion was perfect for Zico to show all his skills. He still looked the best player on the pitch ever at the age of 41 . . . but he could not score. The Brazilians won 2-1, with both their goals coming from Savio, less than half Zico's age, who won his first cap earlier this year.

Zico moved to centre-forward at the finish, desperately seeking the goal that would wrap up his career. It was not to be. But the atmosphere in the stadium was hysterical by the time the final whistle blew. Zico was mobbed by both teams. Yes, Flamengo did get there first. Almost everyone exchanged shirts, with one notable exception. Zico kept his own firmly on his back.

Savio received the award as Player of the Match. Zico got a special plate. Then came the lap of honour, both teams carrying the hero on their shoulders right around the pitch. The stadium stayed full, and the noise was almost unbearable as Zico kicked the match ball to the Kashima fans.

Zico . . . farewell at 41.

With a final wave, he went over to the Flamengo bench, where he took off his shirt. The recipient was Flamengo manager Carlinhos, the man who had given young Zico his boots on the day of his own last match. Zico had never forgotten.

Zico, who had borne about as much emotion as a man can take, said: "I was very satisfied. All supporters have been very warm to me in my last few games, at every stadium. I could hardly bear it today, it was all so intense. But it was a truly great game.

"Raising the level of Japanese football has meant everything to me these past three years, I have dedicated every ounce of my strength to it. You all saw the stadium today. I have done what I came for."

Zico's elder brother, Edu, now manager of Kashima Antlers, summed up the thoughts of everyone who saw this most extraordinary match, surpassing even the J.League's opening ceremony for sheer sense of occasion.

"Hearing all those fans endlessly chanting Zico's name, I felt the same way," he said. "I wanted to chant, too, as a supporter."

Zico also had some final words for Japanese football. "Japan is now top class in Asia. I now hope that Japanese teams, especially the national team, will play many European and South American sides to raise the level further, and African sides, too.

"I have never thought of being a manager, though I might change my mind in future. Having been a player for all these years is not good for the family. I am very grateful to my family, and want to be with them now."

Zico's influence is far from being over. He will open a soccer school in Rio de Janeiro, but he plans to teach Japanese children and to recommend new players to Kashima Antlers as technical adviser.

Besides, he will arrange opponents for the Antlers when they go to foreign camps, and join them at those camps to give special training to the players.

For the moment, his brains will be represented by Edu. On the field, his replacement is 24-year-old Leonardo, of World Cup fame.

Kashima start alongside Sanfrecce Hiroshima as favourites to win the J.League Nicos Series this year.

BAXTER TO GO

IF ANYONE'S job looked safe, it was surely Stuart Baxter's. The young British manager of Sanfrecce Hiroshima had moulded the indifferent Mazda team of the old Japan Soccer League into the championship-winning outfit that lifted this year's Suntory Series. The achievement was all the greater for the relatively shoestring budget and lack of big-name stars. As evidenced by early results in the Nicos Series, the team continues to improve.

But the rumour had been around for some time that, win or lose, Baxter's contract would not be renewed at the end of the year. The official announcement was made just before the restart. Baxter has consented and wishes to continue in Japanese football if possible. It would be an even bigger surprise if Japan's most successful foreign manager to date finds no takers.

The official line at Sanfrecce is that Baxter has done a great job and the time has come for the club to move a stage higher, to draw even closer to the international level. But it is an open secret that Baxter, like other foreign managers in Japan, has been eager for more authority over team-related matters.

So Baxter joins a line of foreign managers who have been moved on in the wake of considerable success. Other notable recent examples are Pepe at Yomiuri, Hans Ooft at the national team and Leao at Shimizu S-Pulse.

VERDY TAKE THE CUP

VERDY KAWASAKI maintained their monopoly of the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup with a third consecutive win. The 2-0 victory in the final over Jubilo Iwata allayed fears that Verdy might stumble without top scorer Kazu Miura, now playing for Genoa in Italy's Serie A. Verdy start the Nicos Series, the J.League's second stage, with every prospect of retaining that title, too.

The Cup was a tale of two strikers, Salvatore Schillaci of Jubio Iwata and Bismarck of Verdy Kawasaki. Schillaci scored all five of Jubilo's goals on the way to the final. Bismarck also netted five *en route*, with the winner against JEF and four in the semi-final against Gamba Osaka.

Verdy made big changes for the Cup after Kazu's departure. New Brazilian coach Nelsinho devised a blend of youth and experience that gave the side its most attacking formation since the J.League began.

Miura's replacement is a lanky young Brazilian, Bentino, signed from Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia. He lined up alongside Nobuhiro Takeda and Bismarck, who played as a third striker. Two young wing-backs, Ko Ishikawa and Kenichiro Tokura, overlapped aggressively, while Ruy Ramos and Tsuyoshi Kitazawa commanded midfield. The back line was held by Pereira, Tetsuji Hashiratani and 19-year-old Yuji Hironag.

Jubilo had also lost a national team striker, Masashi Nakayama, who is sidelined by injury for the rest of the season. That placed the main burden of scoring on Salvatore Schillaci, helped ably by through balls from Gerald Vanenburg in midfield. Schillaci rose to the challenge, but it was Bismarck who had the last word.

Jubilo came out fighting in the final. In the third minute, Toshiya Futita hit the post following a cross from wing-back Takuma Koga. Two minutes later, Schillaci went down in the area, but no foul was given. In the 14th minute, a cross from Vanenburg nearly reached Schillaci; then Kenji Komata fired over the bar.

But Verdy soon found their rhythm and Jubilo's pace began to slow. The turning point came when Ramos put Kitazawa free on the wing. Kitazawa crossed quickly and Bentinho made no mistake with the header. The second came three minutes from half-time. Bismarck received a free-kick from Hashiratani, calmly turned his man and slotted home.

Jubilo regrouped in the second half but the price of extra safely in defence was fewer chances up front. Periera and Hironaga did a good job of keeping Schillaci out of the action when the ball did go his way. Jubilo attacked again towards the end, but Verdy easily soaked up the pressure.

"It is an honour", said Verdy manager Yasutaro Matsuki, "to appear in all three finals and win. Takeda was especially good. His invisible movement made the space. He always showed himself in the nastiest places. That set Bismarck and Bentino free."

Bismarck saved his thoughts for a n absent friend. "I want to give this victory to Kazu. The loss of Kazu is a big minus for the team. But Kazu's merit contributed to the victory. Kazu is like a brother to me and I want him to share this joy."

SANFRECCE SET THE PACE

SANFREECE HIROSHIMA displayed all their championship-winning qualities at the start of the Nicos Series. Two goals in the first seven minutes against Nagoya Grampus Eight paved the way for a 4-0 victory that placed them back on top of the table from the first game. Sanfrecce had to rely on penalties in the next match with Gamba, but then strolled to further wins over Yokohama Flugels and Jubilo Iwata. Stuart Baxter is looking for a new job from January. But in the meantime, there are titles to be won.

That Sanfrecce match marked a catastrophic J League debut for Nagoya Grampus Eight's new signing Dragan Stoikovic from Marseille, who was sent off after only 18 minutes of the first half.

But there is plenty of good news from the Grampus camp. Gary Lineker returned for the first three games and scored from the spot against Jubilo. Stoikovic impressed against Yokohama Flugels after serving his suspension. And Dragisa Binic, who made his debut in the Flugels match, added a whole new dimension to the Grampus attack with his height, speed and superb free-kicks.

Manager Gordon Milne is realistic about the prospects. "Neither Stoikovic nor Binic is fully fit as yet, so it would be wrong to expect too much from them," he said.

The defence also looked disoriented without Brazilian Garca, but the mid-field and attack are lively. Grampus aren't title contenders yet, but are increasingly attractive to watch.

Urawa Red Diamonds likewise have looked a different team since the arrival of Guido Buchwald. The extra stability at the back has relieved the pressure on key midfielders Michael Rummenigge, Tetsuya Asano and Osamu Hirose. But Uwe Bein was injured in the first match with Yokohama Marinos and has not appeared since.

Spare a thought, too, for Leonardo and Kashima Antlers. Leonardo scored on his debut in the second match of the Nicos Series and has looked superb. But while he shines, Kashima have been devastated by injuries on the right and in defence, most significantly to Santos. The team everyone thought would be champi-onship contenders is rooted to the bottom of the table without a win.

Yokohama Marinos, who have no major new signings, have possibly launched a title bid. The team may have been revived by an injury to Argentinian Zapata. That has allowed Bisconti back into the team and led to a remodelling of midfield around Fumitake Miura and Takahiro Yamada. Whatever the cause, the recipe seems to work. Ramon Medina Bello had the added honour of scoring the J.League's 1,000th goal against Kashima Antlers.

Marinos won their first three matches before falling 1-0 to Verdy Kawasaki. Verdy earned that victory by fielding five defenders — in exact opposite style from their strategy in the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup.

Two more clubs have won associate membership of the J.League — Kyoto Sanga and PJM. Like Cerezo Osaka and Kashiwa Reysol. They can achieve full membership next year if they finish in the top two of this season's Japan Football League.

RESULTS

J.LEAGUE YAMAZAKI NABISCO CUP

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

1st Round

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 3 (Jo 5, Goto 26, Niimura 36)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Mori 57). **Att:** 23,765.

JUBILO IWATA 2 (Schillaci 9, 35)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Iwamoto 86 pen). **Att:** 14,375.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Rummenigge 56, Mizuuchi 80)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Santos 60). **Att:** 16,078.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Watanabe 63)
CEREZO OSAKA 0. **Att:** 6,166.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Omura 63, Diaz 84)
KASHIWA REYSOL 1 (Careca 39). **Att:** 8,558.

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Flavio 11, 70 pen)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Cerny 8. **Att:** 19,235.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Quarter-finals

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Bismarck 95)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 0. **Att:** 10,612.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Omura 7, Yamada 11, Bisconti 39)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Nagashima 25). **Att:** 18,021.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0
JUBILO IWATA 2 (Schillaci 50, 63). **Att:** 12,956.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Aleinikov 19, Shimada 42, Morioka 78)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. **Att:** 20,556.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

Semi-finals

VERDY KAWASAKI 7 (Bismarck 12, 31 pen, 35, 52, Bentinho 16, Kitazawa 71, Takeda 89)
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Flavio 75). **Att:** 18,792.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
JUBILO IWATA 1 (Schillaci 42). **Att:** 16,672.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Final

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Bentinho 34, Bismarck 42)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 37,475.

J.LEAGUE — NICOS SERIES (SECOND STAGE)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Kitazawa 59)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Noguchi 11, 57). **Att:** 10,630.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 5 (Ordenewitz 20, 35, 67, Jo 57, Maslovar 70)
GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Yamaguchi 5, 71). **Att:** 10,563.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Alcindo 10, Akita 85)
JUBILO IWATA 2 (Schillaci 9, Masanori Suzuki 53). **Att:** 16,153 (Jubilo win 4-2 on pens).

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 4 (Cerny 6, Mori og 7, Hasek 34, 66)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. **Att:** 11,796.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 3 (Maezono 11, Valber 41, 77). **Att:** 18,478.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Miura 48, Medina Bello 65, 74)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. **Att:** 13,639.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Kurosaki 1, Leonardo 37)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Hironaga 58, Bentinho 63). **Att:** 16,041
Verdy won 5-4 on pens

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maezono 55)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2 (Goto 6, Ordenewitz 47). **Att:** 14,702.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 4 (Diaz 26, 85, Medina Bello 68, 75). **Att:** 15,592.

GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Morioka 44)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Noh 6). **Att:** 19,209 *Sanfrecce won 4-3 on pens*

JUBILO IWATA 2 (Masanori Suzuki 84, Schillaci 87)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Lineker 52 pen, Jorginho 72, Ogura 116). **Att:** 14,592.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Rummenigge 75, Yoshiaki Sato 83)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 0. **Att:** 9,488.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Naito 65)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0. **Att:** 18,214.

VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Bentinho 15, 81, 86, Bismarck 42)
JUBILO IWATA 1 (Matsubara 54). **Att:** 10,629.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 4 (Takagi 13, 64, Fue 44, Hasek 45)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Katsura 76). **Att:** 11,782.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Diaz 7, Medina Bello 46)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Hasegawa 36, 75). **Att:** 13,836.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 3 (Maslovar 17, Jo 61, Echigo 85)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 4 (Rummenigge 29, 58, Yoshiaki Sato 63, 87). **Att:** 10,502.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Kosugi 83, Hirano 89)
GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Yamaguchi 33, Protasov 52, Flavio 104). **Att:** 50,375.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Bentinho 15)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0. **Att:** 10,701.

JUBILO IWATA 2 (Matsubara 72, 83)
GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Aleinikov 73, Matsunami 89). **Att:** 14,441.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Hasek 32, Noh 83). **Att:** 9,367.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 3 (Noguchi 46, Iwamoto 64, Omoto 73)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Jo 8). **Att:** 15,334.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Alcindo 23)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Akita 23 og, Hasegawa 71). **Att:** 50,724.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maeda 68)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Nakanishi 58, Jorginho 96). **Att:** 13,319.

J.LEAGUE — NICOS SERIES

	P	W	L	F	A
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	4	4	0	11	2
Yokohama Marinos	4	3	1	9	3
Verdy Kawasaki	4	3	1	8	5
JEF United Ichihara	4	2	2	11	10
Urawa Red Diamonds	4	2	2	6	8
Bellmare Hiratsuka	4	2	2	5	7
Nagoya Grampus Eight	4	2	2	7	10
Shimizu S Pulse	4	2	2	3	6
Jubilo Iwata	4	2	2	7	11
Gamba Osaka	4	1	3	8	10
Yokohama Flugels	4	1	3	6	8
Kashima Antlers	4	0	4	7	8

TOP SCORERS — (1st & 2nd stages)

1 .....**ALCINDO** (Antlers) 22
2 .....Frank **ORDENEWITZ** (JEF Utd).....19
3 .....Ivan **HASEK** (Sanfreece).....17

MALAYSIA

Player sacked in 'fixing case'

ACTION against corruption in Malaysian soccer led to a court case against a player and a referee.

The hearings followed the Football Association of Malaysia's decision to offer a reward, around £75,000, for information leading to conviction of anyone concerned in match-fixing.

The police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency were involved in the investigation, as well as the FAM. Rumours of rigged results in the Premier League have been rife for some time, and eventually led to the arrest of Czech-born player Michal Vana on six counts of accepting bribes from bookmakers.

Vana was remanded in to appear at a later date, but FAM decided to terminate his contract with the Singapore club, who had gained from four allegedly fixed matches.

A referee, 43-year-old Rajamanickam Thirujnanasammanthan, is accused of accepting bribes to favour Singapore in two matches.

At the time of the initial hearing, Singapore were second in the table, a point behind Kedah.

Jahid Jahim, manager of Sabah, said that he had received a tape recording pf a bookmaker haggling with a player over the price needed too fix a match.

And Tengku Abdullah, FAM deputy president, was quoted as saying that the investigation was the "tip of an iceberg".

AHMED BASAKILIRI

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudis seek Gulf Cup

SAUDI ARABIA, a surprise success in the World Cup, will compete in the Gulf Cup from November 3-16.

But few of the US '94 squad will be on display. Current under-21 players will make up most of the party and youth coach Mohamed Al Khrashy will be in charge.

Al Khrashy coached the senior team in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup before being replaced by Argentinian Jorge Solari.

Former French national coach Henri Michel has taken over at Al Nasr, the current Saudi club champions. He replaces Youssof Khamis and is the second foreign coach in the League, following Ian Porterfield, now at Ittihad of Jeddah.

OSAMA SADEK

BANGLADESH

Freedom Fighters finish first

MUKTIJODDHA broke the two-club domination of soccer in Bangladesh when winning the 12th Beximco Federation Cup.

Mohammedan and Abahani have taken nearly all the major titles in the past two decades, but Muktijoddha — Freedom Fighters — eliminated both during the eight-club tournament.

The first group was led by Brothers Union, who took five points from their three games, with Muktijoddha second after a win over Bangladesh Boys and draws with the Brothers and with Fakirerpool.

Mohammedan topped the second group, followed by Abahani, with Sadharan and Wari both eliminated.

A goal by Mizan after half an hour enabled Freedom Fighters to beat Mohammedan in one semi-final, and Abahani won a 5-4 penalty shootout after a goalless draw against the Brothers.

The first half of the final was surprisingly one-sided, with Nakib scoring two spectacular goals and Emdadual diverting across into his own net to leave Abahani three down at the interval.

Iraqi recruit Nazar Ali scored twice after the break, but Mjktijoddha held on for a merited first major victory. Much of the credit must go to coach Kazi Salahuddin, a former Bangladesh international forward, who joined the club halfway through last season — from Abahani.

AZAM MAHMOOD

Mohamammedans match stopped by rampaging fans

POLICE used teargas to disperse rioting fans won threw rocks and bottles and smashed cars during a match in Dhaka between Mohammedans and Power Development Board.

About 100 people were injured, 20 were arrested, and at least 25 vehicles were damaged. The riot broke out in the 85th minute and the match, which was 1-1 at the time, was abandoned.

Supporters of Mohammedans, who accounted for most of the crowd of 25,000, went on the rampage after one of their team's strikers was injured in a hard tackle by two PDB defenders.

Police intervened when some Mohammedans players mobbed the referee and attacked him. The supporters then joined in, throwing rocks and bottles at the police.

Hospital doctors said 25 people, including seven police, were admitted for treatment. Witnesses said at least 25 cars and buses were stoned and smashed by the rioters.

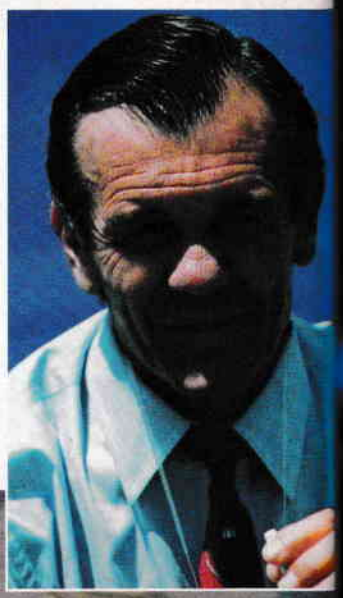
PALESTINE

Arafat kicks off Gaza Strip game

YASSAR ARAFAT kicked off the first soccer match by a Palestinian squad against an Arab team in the Gaza Strip after 27 years of Israeli occupation.

The Palestinians defeated the Qatari team 4-1. About 3,00 spectators paid 10 skekels (£3) each, about a quarter of the average daily wage in the impoverished Gaza Strip, to attend the game against Qatar's al-Waqra club.

They sang the Palestinian anthem Biladi, Biladi (My Homeland, My



Saudi expects . . . coach Jorge Solari is taking his team to the Gulf Cup.

ASIAN FOOTBALL

Official Sponsors – Supporting Asian

Homeland), followed by the Qatari anthem. Arafat then took to the pitch with Sheikh Khalifa Al-Thani, a member of Qatar's ruling family and president of the al-Waqra club for a pre-match kickabout. They kicked the ball back and forth to the delight of fans in the Yarmouk Stadium.

Following the Arafat kick-off, the Palestinian team racked up a 3-0 lead by half-time. They scored once more in the second half, before the Qatari's managed a face-saving goal in the 85th minute.

"We are the first Arab team on the land of Gaza and I have a great feeling about that," said Al-Thani, who blamed his team's poor perfomance on the sandy field. He said his team, missing their six best players, had spent 36 hours travelling to the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians, in yellow and blue, were assembled mainly from residents of the nearby Jabaliya refugee camp.

Israel approved the Qatari team's visit to the autonomous zones. Palestinian announcer Jemal Hilu hoped the victory over a foreign team would break the isolation of the Gaza Strip and improve the level of sport. "The intefadeh had a bad impact on our standard of sports and we hope to rebuld it," he said. But fan Muhammed Dief said it would be a long time before the Palestinians were capable of competing. "Our sport is like our economy," he laughed. "It's bad."

CAMBODIA

FIFA pulls out of Cambodia

FIFA has postponed a series of training courses in Cambodia because of security concerns.

The courses were due to take place on Spetember 14-19. Footbal is the most popular sport in Cambodia but there are few modern training facilities.

The country has recently been hit by a spate of violence, including the kidnap of three westerners by Khmer Rouge guerillas, and a low level guerilla war continues in the countryside.

OCEANIA

NEW ZEALAND

Technical triumph for Christchurch

AFTER three nondescript decades, Christchurch Technical are back under the spotlight.

The club, founded 71 years ago by J.B. Garnett, once of The Corinthians, had much success during the 1940s and 1950s, but then slipped back to being nothing more than an average regional legue outfit.

Their revival is due to a Briton whose background differs greatly from Garnett's.

Keith Braithwaite gained his soccer education in northern-English semi-professional leagues (Northwich Victoria being the most prominent club) and, as coach, has been instrumental in transforming Technical from also-rans into winners of the southern section of the Winfield Superclub Championship's Regional Round.

Technical always looked to be the more likely qualifiers for the National Round, as did North Shore United, Waitakere City, holders Napier City Rovers, Wellington Olympic and Miramar Rangers.

Both Central and Roslyn Wakari, however, appear in the last eight because Mount Wellington and Christchurch Rangers lost their last games.

Central, never previously a contender for major honours, can be particularly elated at having advanced to the second phase. They are the flagship of Auckland's small Croatian community and their teamsheet bears testimony to that, several surnames ending with "Vich". The team's leading goalscorer, however is a Peruvian . . . named Percy Watson.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomons kings of Melanesia

COMMUNAL rejoicing over winning an international soccer trophy was not confined to Brazil this year.

The Solomon Islands won the fifth Melanesian Cup Tournament, which they hosted — "small beer" in world terms, but of immense importance for this isolated Pacific nation of 360,000 people.

Fans in the Solomon Islands celebrated into the following morning's early hours, with cars and trucks, flashing lights and blaring horns, driven through the streets of Honiara.

Appropriately, the key result came on Solomon Independence Day, when three times champions and holders Fiji succumbed to a 70th minute headed goal from substitute George Kiriau.

The tournament's outstanding player, Bartram Suri, created the opportunity through a superb run and shot that was parried by the the goalkeeper, only for Kiriau to demonstrate why he is nicknamed "Snake Man" by striking with the speed of a cobra.

The Solomon Islanders alse defeated Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Vanuatu to complete a 100 per cent record, Fiji finished runners-up with just that one defeat.

PAUL MOON

FINAL TABLES

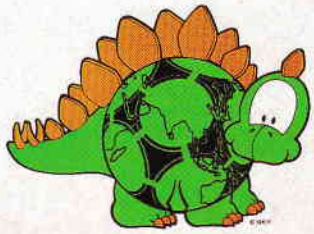
North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Shore	18	14	4	0	53	14	46
Waitakere City	18	12	6	0	59	17	42
Central	18	9	3	6	26	30	30
Mt Wellington	18	8	4	6	33	30	28
Ellerslie	18	6	3	9	26	34	21
Waikato Utd	18	5	5	8	33	39	20
Manurewa	18	5	4	9	34	42	19
Mt Albert-Ponsonby	18	4	4	10	29	45	16
Papatoetoe	18	4	3	11	26	47	15
Oratia Utd	18	3	4	11	29	50	13

Central	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napier City	18	13	3	2	52	19	42
Wellington Oly	18	12	4	2	53	23	40
Miramar R	18	10	4	4	41	23	34
Wellington Utd	18	7	4	7	26	29	25
Wanganui East A.	18	7	2	9	33	33	23
Petone	18	6	3	9	28	29	21
Manawatu	18	5	3	10	27	55	18
New Plymouth R.	18	3	7	8	19	31	16
Lower Hutt C	18	4	4	10	24	41	16
Nelson Utd	18	4	4	10	13	33	16

South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Christchurch Tech	18	13	3	2	59	18	42
Roslyn-Wakari	18	13	1	4	47	11	40
Christchurch R	18	13	1	4	35	15	40
Woolston W	18	12	2	4	27	20	38
Halswell Utd	18	6	6	6	25	27	24
Christchurch Utd.	18	5	3	10	15	31	18
Burnside Utd	18	4	3	11	23	24	15
Dunedin Tech	18	4	3	11	19	37	15
Cashmere W	18	4	2	12	12	37	14
Green Island	18	2	4	12	15	47	10

CONFEDERATION

SANYO MILD SEVEN SNICKERS
Canon FUJI FILM Clarion



Football, the Game of the Future.

RESULTS

Club Brugge win Belgian SuperCup . . . FC Porto win 1993 Portugues

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

MIDWEEK

RAPID WIEN 2 (Heraf 25, Kuhbauer 85)
ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Kogler 24, Binder 56). **Att:** 9,000.

FC TIROL 3 (Sane 54, Danek 56, Janeschitz 82)
FC LINZ 0. **Att:** 12,000.

STURM GRAZ 1 (Wetl 30)
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Grobl 72). **Att:** 8,000.

VfB MODLING 1 (Wurz 27)
AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Zsak 40). **Att:** 5,000.

LINZER ASK 0
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0. **Att:** 20,000.

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Kogler 54)
STURM GRAZ 2 (Friesenbichler 31, Prilasnig 71). **Att:** 2,000.

FC LINZ 1 (Stumpf 53)
LINZER ASK 1 (Sabitzer 25). **Att:** 13,000.

VORWARTS STEYR 2 (Adzima 45, Barac 81)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 4,000.

SALZBURG 3 (Mladenovic 15, 30, Hasenhutti 88)
RAPID WIEN 0. **Att:** 12,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 0
FC TIROL 0. **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

WEEKEND

RAPID WIEN 0
FC LINZ 0. **Att:** 5,000.

FC TIROL 0
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Krinner 70). **Att:** 12,000.

STURM GRAZ 3 (Friesenbichler 18, Schultz 48, Grassler 56)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 5,000.

ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Zingler 62)
SALZBURG 1 (Feiersingr 80). **Att:** 4,000.

LINZER ASK 1 (Sabitzer 70)
AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Kogler 80). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

WEEKEND

SALZBURG 1 (Pfeifenberger 53)
STURM GRAZ 1 (Prilasnig 43). **Att:** 12,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Slivovski 2)
RAPID WIEN 1 (Mjelde 22). **Att:** 9,000.

VfB MODLING 2 (Zisser 9, Gruber 43)
FC TIROL 3 (Streiter 18, 41, Cerny 82). **Att:** 3,000.

FC LINZ 2 (Werner 45, Duspara 64)
ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Mairleb 5). **Att:** 4,000.

VORWARTS STEYR 0
LINZER ASK 3 (Sabitzer 25, 86, Weissenberger 38). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

WEEKEND

RAPID WIEN 3 (Hatz 21, Slivovski 72, Pork 79)
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Vukovic 63). **Att:** 3,200.

SALZBURG 4 (Hasenhuttl 13, Pfeifenberger 43, Kocian 74, Mladenovic 76)
FC LINZ 1 (Zeller 11). **Att:** 13,000.

STURM GRAZ 0
FC TIROL 0. **Att:** 12,000.

ADMIRA WACKER 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 0. **Att:** 4,500.

LINZER ASK 2 (Metlitzkij 48, Linzmaier 52)
VfB MODLING 2 (Brauneder 11, Mader 12). **Att:** 5,000.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sturm Graz	4	2	2	0	7	3	6
Innsbruck	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Salzburg	4	1	3	0	5	2	5
Linzer ASK	4	1	3	0	5	2	5
Vorwarts	4	2	1	1	4	4	5
Austria Wien	4	0	4	0	3	3	4
FC Linz	4	1	2	1	3	5	4
Rapid Wien	4	0	3	1	3	6	3
Admira Wacker	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
VfB Modling	4	0	1	3	3	9	1

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

MIDWEEK

SUPERCUP

ANDERLECHT 1 (Preko 87)
CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Vermant 7, Eykelkamp 43, Doll 74 og).

WEEKEND

STANDARD 3 (Vidmar 6, 67, 88)
ANTWERP 1 (Van Gompel 29). **Att:** 15,00.

LOMMEL 2 (Waligora 15, 48)
LIERSE 3 (Pauwels 61, Peeters 64, 65). **Att:** 8,000.

CHARLEROI 0
MECHELEN 1 (Bartholomeeussen 70). **Att:** 10,000.

RWDM 1 (Williams 50)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Staelens 65). **Att:** 8,000.

GENT 2 (Martens 15, Dauwen 57)
BEVEREN 1 (Lodders 56). **Att:** 7,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 2 (Renty 8, Hanganu 19)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Weber 74). **Att:** 8,000.

FC LIEGE 1 (Daelmans 16 og)
ST TRUIDEN 1 (Coenen 26). **Att:** 10,000.

OOSTENDE 1 (Soudan 29)
SERAING 2 (Edmilson pen 68, Lawaree 87). **Att:** 7,200.

EKEREN 2 (Halmai 3, Radzinski 12)
EENDRACHT AALST 3 (Lamberg 21, De Bilde 38, 44 pen). **Att:** 4,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

WEEKEND

SERAING 3 (Edmilson 36, Lukaku 37, Teppers 80)
GENT 0. **Att:** 5,000.

ST TRUIDEN 0
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 7,000.

LIERSE 5 (Huysmans 39, 71, Lehmann 44, 77, Peeters 89)
FC LIEGE 0. **Att:** 5,000.

ANDERLECHT 2 (Haagdoren 25, Weber 72)
EKEREN 2 (Hofmans 8, Van de Walle pen 14). **Att:** 12,000.

BEVEREN 1 (Goots 84)
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 5,000.

ANTWERP 2 (Porte 38, Aloisi 76)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 6,000.

MECHELEN 0
STANDARD 2 (Bettagno 29, Wilmots 38). **Att:** 10,000.

EENDRACHT AALST 1 (De Bilde 41)
LOMMEL 1 (Van Veldhoven 58). **Att:** 7,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Vermant 64, Verheyen 80)
OOSTENDE 3 (Poppe 36, Soudan 50, Origi 54). **Att:** 10,000.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standard Liege	4	4	0	0	10	1	8
Lierse	4	3	0	1	13	7	6
Club Brugge	4	2	1	1	9	5	5
Antwerp	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Seraing	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Anderlecht	4	2	1	1	9	7	5
Aalst	4	2	1	1	7	6	5
Mechelen	4	2	0	2	6	6	4
Beveren	4	2	0	2	4	5	4
Cercle Bruges	4	2	0	2	4	7	4
Ekeren	4	1	2	1	8	6	4
St Truiden	4	1	2	1	5	5	4
RWDM	4	1	1	2	6	8	3
Gent	4	1	1	2	6	9	3
Oostende	4	1	0	3	5	11	2
Charleroi	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
FC Liege	4	0	2	2	3	10	2
Lommel	4	0	1	3	4	8	1

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 2 (Stewart 5, Van Arum 8)
NAC BREDA 0. **Att:** 8,850.

HEERENVEEN 2 (Sier 41, Regtop 71)
FC GRONINGEN 0. **Att:** 13,200.

FC UTRECHT 3 (Gorter 40, 66, Plugboer 58)
NEC NIJMEGEN 2 (Kooistra 28, Van Wanrooy 34 pen). **Att:** 4,820.

DORDRECHT 1 (Breetveld 75)
FEYENOORD 1 (Trustfull 21). **Att:** 7,000.

RODA JC 1 (Graef 88)
FC TWENTE 1 (Mols 12). **Att:** 6,000.

AJAX 3 (Kluivert 14, Blind 38, Wooter 64)
RKC 1 (Dechevier 66). **Att:** 17,200.

PSV EINDHOVEN 4 (Ronaldo 10, Linskens 30, Nilis 40, 71)
VITESSE ANRHEM 2 (Gillhaus 26, 47). **Att:** 8,500.

FC VOLENDAM 3 (Steur 11, Stefanovic 36 pen, Jongsma 76)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 3,600.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	2	2	0	0	8	3	4
Utrecht	2	2	0	0	7	2	4
Feyenoord	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Volendam	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Ajax	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
NEC Nijmegen	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Dordrecht	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Groningen	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
FC Twente	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Willem II Tilburg	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Roda JC	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Heerenveen	2	1	0	1	2	4	2
RKC Waalwijk	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Vitesse Arnhem	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
NAC Breda	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
MVV	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Sparta	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
GA Eagles	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

MIDWEEK

1993 SUPER CUP — replay

BENFICA 2 (Tavares 89, C Brito 118)
FC PORTO 2 (Domingos 85, Secretario 95). **Att:** 20,000 *(in Coimbra). Aet, FC Porto won 4-3 on pens*

WEEKEND

BELENENSES 0
ESTRELA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

FARENSE 0
SPORTING 2 (Juskowiak 32, Sa Pinto 76). **Att:** 17,000.

GUIMARAES 2 (Pedro Martins pen 45, 86)
BOAVISTA 0. **Att:** 15,350.

CHAVES 0
SALGUEIROS 1 (Chico Oliveira 44). **Att:** 10,300.

GIL VICENTE 0
TIRSENSE 1 (Caetano 26). **Att:** 8,470.

FC PORTO 2 (Rui Filipe 21, Kostadinov 89)
SPORTING BRAGA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

BENFICA 2 (Vitor Paneira 59, Clovis 89)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 20,000.

UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Fua 88)
UNIOA MADEIRA 2 (Lepinica 29, Robert 89). **Att:** 9,800.

MARITIMO 3 (Paulo Alves 33, 39, Alex 75)
VITORIA SETUBAL 2 (Figueiredo 12, Chiquinho Carlos 70). **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

MIDWEEK

1994 SUPER CUP

BENFICA 1 (Vitor Paneira 75)
FC PORTO 1 (Rui Filipe 72). **Att:** 50,000 *(in Lisbon)*.

WEEKEND

ESTRELA 1 (Paulo Alves 4)
MARITIMO 1 (Edmundo 51). **Att:** 5,800.

SPORTING LISBON 2 (Figo 59, Chiquinho Conde 80)
BELENENSES 1 (Alvaro Gregorio 23). **Att:** 20,000.

BOAVISTA 2 (Artur 72 pen, Mateurs 75)
FARENSE 1 (Hassan Nader 24). **Att:** 9,450.

SALGUEIROS 0
GUIMARAES 0. **Att:** 10,000.

TIRSENSE 0
CHAVES 1 (Jaime Cerqueira 1). **Att:** 7,200.

SPORTING BRAGA 1 (Barroso 37)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Cacioli 62). **Att:** 8,000.

BEIRA-MAR 0
FC PORTO 2 (Rui Barros 52, Emerson 90). **Att:** 12,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA 0
BENFICA 2 (Isaias 54, Caniggia pen 70). **Att:** 12,000.

VITORIA SETUBAL 2 (Dino 25, Poejo 76)
UNIAO LEIRIA 2 (Bertolazzi 14, Rui Esteves 41). **Att:** 13,000.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
FC Porto	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
Sporting Lisbon	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Guimaraes	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Maritimo	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Salgueiros	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Desp. Chaves	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Estrela Amadora	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Tirsense	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Boavista	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Uniao Madeira	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Gil Vicente	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Uniao Leiria	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Setubal	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Belenenses	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sporting Braga	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Farense	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Beira-Mar	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 31

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 1 (Prinz 23)
NEUCHATEL 2 (Ivanov 44, Aleksandrov 89). **Att:** 7,000.

SION 2 (Assis 8, Geiger 14)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 9,500.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Hartmann 85)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Subiat 52 pen). **Att:** 8,500.

FC ZURICH 1 (Studer 64)
LAUSANNE 1 (Kaslin 38). **Att:** 4.600.

BASEL 0
LUGANO 1 (Manfreda 74). **Att:** 16,500.

LUCERNE 3 (Camenzind 17, Sawu 54, Guntersperger 82).
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 9,600.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

MIDWEEK

AARAU 3 (Pavlicevic 68, Kucharski 82, Fink 83)
FC ZURICH 0. **Att:** 5,800.

GRASSHOPPER 6 (Subiat 12, 22, Thuler 15, 87, Bickel 60, 81)
LUCERNE 1 (Guntensperger 57). **Att:** 6,200.

LAUSANNE 2 (Kaslin 70, La Placa 90)
BASEL 1 (Zuffi 90). **Att:** 6,500.

LUGANO 3 (Colombo 17, 61, Manfreda 27)
SION 0. **Att:** 7,200.

SERVETTE 1 (Sinval 50)
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 5,500.

NEUCHATEL 4 (Detari 5, 29 pen, Aleksandrov 13, 22)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEKEND

AARAU 0
LUGANO 0. **Att:** 4,300.

LAUSANNE 0
GRASSHOPPER 0. **Att:** 8,500.

SION 3 (Herr 27, Assis 51, 79)
SERVETTE 2 (Neuville 6, 87). **Att:** 11,000.

ST GALLEN 4 (Gambino 9, Fischer 41, Tiefenbach 3, Gilewicz 90)
NEUCHATEL 0. **Att:** 6,500.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Moser 22)
LUCERNE 3 (Guntensperger 4, 66, Rueda 59). **Att:** 5,600.

FC ZURICH 0
BASEL 0. **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

WEEKEND

BASEL 0
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 13,500.

GRASSHOPPER 2 (Subiat 40, Koller 48)
FC ZURICH 1 (Kagi 65). **Att:** 10,200.

LUGANO 4 (Manfreda 24, 58, Bugnard 33, Andrioli 79)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 5,600.

LUCERNE 1 (Guntensperger 60)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 10,200.

SERVETTE 0
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 4,500.

NEUCHATEL 4 (Perret 17, Betari 57, 59)
SION 2 (Bonvin 23, 81). **Att:** 13,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

WEEKEND

LUGANO 0
SERVETTE 1 (Prinz pen 67). **Att:** 6,800.

AARAU 2 (Skrzpczak 24, Christensen 80 og)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 4,500.

GRASSHOPPER 2 (Koller 45, Subiat 59)
SION 0. **Att:** 5,650.

LAUSANNE 1 (Badea 30)
LUCERNE 2 (Guntensperger 8, 24). **Att:** 5,500.

ST GALLEN 1 (Mazzarelli og 74)
FC ZURICH 1 (Mazzarelli 67). **Att:** 6,800.

NEUCHATEL 1 (Detari 7)
BASEL 0. **Att:** 15,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

WEEKEND

BASEL 0
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Koller 29, De Napoli 80). **Att:** 19,508.

LUCERNE 0
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Adriano 72). **Att:** 13,200.

SERVETTE 2 (Renato 49, 79)
AARAU 2 (Ratinho 33, Fink 62). **Att:** 4,300.

SION 1 (Bonvin 52)
ST GALLEN 1 (Gilewicz 4). **Att:** 8,500.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Giallanza 35)
LAUSANNE 2 (La Placa 12, Sogbie pen 27). **Att:** 4,900.

FC ZURICH 1 (Tarone 43)
LUGANO 1 (Galvao 46). **Att:** 3,600.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	6	4	2	0	13	3	10
Neuchatel	6	5	0	1	12	7	10
Lugano	6	3	2	1	9	2	8
Lucerne	6	4	0	2	10	9	8
Lausanne	6	2	3	1	6	5	7
Aarau	6	2	2	2	7	5	6
Servette	6	2	2	2	7	7	6
St Gallen	6	1	3	2	6	6	5
Sion	6	2	1	3	8	12	5
FC Zurich	6	0	4	2	4	8	4
Basel	6	0	2	4	1	6	2
Young Boys	6	0	1	5	3	16	1

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS CUP
(incorporating 1994-95 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE)

PRELIMINARY ROUND — 1ST LEG *(Aug 11 unless stated)*

AEK ATHENS 2 (Saravakos 45, 70)
RANGERS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).
AEK Athens: Matsidis — Papadopoulos, Kassapis, Manolas, Sabanantzovic, Vlachos, Saravakos, Savevski, Ketsbaia, (Dimitriadis 9), Tsartas, Kostis.
Rangers: Goram — Stevens, Robertson, Gough, Pressley, McCall, Laudrup, Ferguson, Durie (Durrant 78), Hateley, Murray.

AVENIR BEGGEN 1 (Zaritski 50)
GALATASARAY 5 (Kubilay 30, Safet 35, Hakan 69, Arif 76, 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 6,200

LEGIA WARSAW 0
HAJDUK SPLIT 1 (Rapaic 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000

MACCABI HAIFA 1 (Revivo 48 pen)
CASINO SALZBURG 2 (Huetter 82, Mladenovic 89 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000.

PARIS SG 3 (Ricardo 29, Weah 47, Roche 82)
VAC SAMSUNG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000.
Paris SG: Lama — Cobos, Colleter, Ricardo, Roche, Kombouare, Bravo, Guerin, Weah, Valdo, Ginola, Borrelli, Sechet, Le Guen, Dieng, Nouma, Llacer.
VAC Samsung: Koszta — Hamori, Puglits, Nagy, Aranyons, Kasza, Kriska, Nyilas, Aczel, Romanek, Fule, Dzurjak, Saliai, Banfoldi, Nyikos, Zvara.

SILKEBORG 0
KIEV DYNAMO 0
Att: 4,298

SPARTA PRAGUE 1 (Budka 89)
IFK GOTHENBURG 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,600 *(in Jablonec)*

STEAUA BUCHAREST 4 (Ilie 1, Sen 17 pen, Pirvu 26, Lacatus 50)
SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 72)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 5,000.

PRELIMINARY ROUND — 2ND LEG *(Aug 18 unless stated)*

CASINO SALZBURG 3
(Mladenovic 47, 53, Jurcevic 78)
MACCABI HAIFA 1 (Hazan 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000.
Salzburg 5-2 on agg

GALATASARAY 4 (Hakan 54, 70, 84, Safet 64)
AVENIR BEGGEN 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000.
Galatasaray 9-1 on agg

HAJDUK SPLIT 4 (Asanovic 50, Vulic 64, Rapaic 80, Erceg 89)
LEGIA WARSAW 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,500.
Hajduk 5-0 on agg

IFK GOTHENBURG 2 (Blomqvust 22, Rehn 64)
SPARTA PRAHA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000.
IFK Gothenburg 2-1 on agg

KIEV DYNAMO 3 (Skapenko 21, Kovalets 28, Kosovski 90)
SILKEBORG 1 (Fernandes 74)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,000.
Kiev 3-1 on agg

RANGERS 0
AEK ATHENS 1 (Savevski 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 27,000.
AEK Athens 3-0 on agg

SERVETTE 1 (Schepull 15)
STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Pirvu 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,250.
Steaua 5-2 on agg

VAC SAMSUNG 1 (Fule 31)
PARIS SG 2 (Mboma 20, 68)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000.
Paris SG 5-1 on agg

CUP-WINNERS CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND — 1ST LEG *(Aug 11 unless stated)*

BANGOR (NI) 0
TATRAN PRESOV 1 (Nenadic 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice)
Bangor: Dalton — Glendining, Ferguson (Dornan 69), McCaffrey, Brown, Melly, Hill, *Batey, McCallan, Magee (Wilkinson 83), McEvoy.
** Batey sent off, 81mins.*
Tatran Presov: Jakubech — Bajtos, Kocis, Varga, Nenadic, Hlusko, Skalka, Hoger, Kantos, Zvara, Matta.

BARRY TOWN 0
ZHALGIRIS VILNIUS 1 (Vencevicius 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,914. **Ref:** H Olsen (Nor)
Barry Town: Livingstone, Griffiths, Williams, Davies (Leask 45), Boyle, Ellis, Giles, Wright (Mitchell 45), *D'Auria, Jones, Scott.
** D'Auria sent off, 64mins.*
Zhalgiris Vilnius: Spetyla, Suliauskas, Maciuleuicius, Baltusnikas, Stunkus, Novikovas, Karvelis (Vencevicius 30), Treskanas, Prethsaitis, Jankavskas, Poderis (Rimkus 77).

BODO/GLIMT 6 (Berstad 5, Runar Berg 53, 89, Bjoerkan 70, B I Johnsen 35, 82)
OLIMPIJA RIGA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,290.

FANDOK BOBRUISK (Bye) 4 (Yeryomko 1, Yeryomko 5, Khripach 65, Savostikov 72)
FC TIRANA 1 (Prenga 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000.

FERENCVAROS 6 (Neagoe 3, Szekeres 17, 76, Paling 45, Lipcsei 57, Albert 78)
DUDELANGE 1 (Fanelli 81)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000.

FLORIANA 2 (Stefanovic 53, 90)
SLIGO ROVERS 2 (Moran 12, Reid 31)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,500

IBK KEFLAVIK 1 (Tanesic 75)
MACCABI TEL AVIV 2 (Klinte! 36, Awi Ninni 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,914.

NORMA TALLINN 1 (Rychkov 83)
MARIBOR BRANIK 4 (Galic 54, Milevski 63, Djurovski 78, Shimundzha 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000.

PIRIN BLAGOEVGRAD 3 (Orachev 18, Yanev 29, Petrov 60 pen)
FC SHAAN (Lie) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000.

SANDOVAR ITROTTARFELAG 0
HJK HELSINKI 5 (Yanitalu 3, 86, Lius 20, 68, Heinola 80)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 462.

TILIGUL TIRASPOL (Mol) 0
OMONIA 1 (Gagritsiani 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000.

VIKTORIA ZIZKOV 1 (Poborsky 74)
IFK NORRKOPING 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,905.

PRELIMINARY ROUND — 2ND LEG *(Aug 25 unless stated)*

DUDELANGE 1 (Morgante 21)
FERENCVAROS 6 (Lisztes 5, Paling 18, Lipcsei 38, 68, Kristiansen 55, Zavadsky 88)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 750.
Ferencvaros 12-2 on agg

HJK HELSINKI 2 (Kottila 1, Suokonautio 80)
B71 SANDUR 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000.
HJK 7-0 on agg

MACCABI TEL-AVIV 4 (A Brumer 13, G Brumer 16 pen, Klinger 25, Kriks 68)
IBK KEFLAVIK 1 (Tanasic 36)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 8,125.
Maccabi 6-2 on agg

MARIBOR 10 (Djurovski 5, 8, Gutali 20, 45, Bozgo 22, 24, 42, 82, Simundza 40, 86)
NORMA TALLINN 0
HT: 8-0. **Att:** 4,500.
Maribor 14-1 on agg

IFK NORRKOPING 3 (Hansson 41, 71, Vaatovaara 90 pen)
VICTORIA ZIZKOV 3 (Trval 52, Kordula 57, Vrabec 89pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,500.
Zizkov Zizkov 4-3 on agg

OLIMPIJA RIGA 0
BODO/GLIMT 0
Att: 2,500.
Bodo/Glimt 6-0 on agg

OMONIA 3 (Kandilos 5pen, Tutic 45, Savidis 89)
TILIGUL 1 (Belous 51)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,500.
Omonia 4-1 on agg

FC SCHAAN 0
PIRIN 1 (Yankov 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 800.
Pirin 4-0 on agg

SLIGO ROVERS 1 (Brennan 77)
FLORIANA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000.
Sligo 3-2 on agg

TATRAN PRESOV 4 (Kocis 13, 48, Matta 42, Hoger 52)
BANGOR 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,450.
Tatran 5-0 on agg

TIRANA 3 (Fortuzi 45, 75, 90)
FANDOK 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000.
Tirana on away goals: 4-4 agg

ZHALGIRIS 6 (Karvelis 18, 50, Baltusnikas 40, Poderis 48, Maciulevicius 68, Jankauskas 89)
BARRY TOWN 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,500.
Zhalgiris 7-0 on agg

UEFA CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND — 1ST LEG *(Aug 10 unless stated)*

AARAU 1 (Kucharski 71)
MURA (Sloven) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,800.

INTER BRATISLAVA 0
ANJALANKOSKI 3 (Kolkka, 11, 30, Rajamaki 49)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,007.

ANORTHOSIS FAMAGUSTA 2 (Charalambous 19, Nicolic 40)
SHUMEN 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,000.

ARIS SALONIKA 3 (Sapountzis 8, 64 pen, Ivan 89)
HAPOEL BEER SHEVA 1 (Guseyev 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 19,000.

BANGOR CITY 1 (Motramm 53)
IA AKRANES 2 (Reynisson 44, Jonsson 47)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,426. **Ref:** Pereire (Por).
Bangor City: Adkins, Jones, Middleton, Evans, Rutter, Humphreys, Wiggins, Barnet, Mottram, Lloyd-Williams (McLennan 84), Noble.
IA Akranes: T Thordarson — E Haraldssan, Steinn Reynisson (K Thordarson 84), Johsson, Adolfson, Miljkovic, P Haraldssan, Hervarsson, O Thordarson, Ingolfsson, Bibercic (Petursson 80).

FC COPENHAGEN 0
FC JAZZ 1 (Ruhanen 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,390.

CSKA SOFIA 3 (Tanev 20, Koilov 44, Shishkov 75)
ARARAT YEREVAN 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000.

FH HAFNARFJORDUR (Ice) 1 (Magnusson 74)
LINFIELD 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500.

FENERBAHCE 5 (Bulent 16, Aykut 43, 66, Nielsen 81, Aygun 88)
TOURAN (Aze) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000.

GORNIK ZABRZE 7 (Szemonski 30, 83, Baluszynski 35pen, Kozela 52, Orzeszek 78, Kubik 80)
SHAMROCK ROVERS 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,001.

GOTU ITROTTARFELAG 0
TRELLEBORG 1 (C. Karlsson 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 814.

GREVENMACHER 1 (A. Silva 83)
ROSENBORG TRONDHEIM 2 (Leonardsen 4, Loeken 89 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 500.

INTER CARDIFF 0
GKS KATOWICE 3 (Semak 84 pen, 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,115. **Ref:** A. Roca (Spa)
Inter Cardiff: Wood, Knight, John, O'Brien, Batchelor, Lewis, Thomas, Jones, Evans (Williams 70), Beattie, Taylor (Burrows 62).
GKS Katowice: Jojko, Maziejewski, Borawski, Wegrzyn, Widuch, Wolny, Kucz (Nicodens 87), Strojek, Janoszka (Walcsak 44), Swierczewski, Sermak.

KISPEST HONVED 4 (Illes 27, 68, Pisont 60, Hamar 76)
ZIMBRU KISHINEV (Mol) 1 (Timbur 58)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000.

LILLESTROM 4 (Hedman 2, R Johnsen 42, Gulbrandsen 49, J O Pedersen 68)
SHAKHTYOR DONETSK 1 (Petrov 58)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2779.

MINSK DINAMO 3 (Kashentsev 69, Kachura 78, Yaskovich 85)
HIBERNIANS 1 (Lorenz 6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000

MOTHERWELL 3 (Coyne 20, McGrillen 34, Kirk 83)
HAVNAR 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,517. **Ref:** Ashman (Wal)
Motherwell: Woods — Shannon, McKinnon, Philliben, Martin, McCart, Lambert, Dolan, McGrillen (Kirk 64), O'Donnell (Davies 84), Coyne.
Havnar Boltfelag: Johannesen, Jakobson, Dahl, Hansen, Wang, Jan Dam, Nolsoe, Thomasson, Johnsson, Mohr, John Henry Dam (Eydun 64).

ODENSE 3 (Torup 13, Schjonberg 58, Madsen 89)
FLORA TALLINN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,834

OLYMPIA LJUBLJANA 3 (Dosti 35, 37, 73)
LEVSKI SOFIA 2 (Sirakov 57, 72)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000.

PORTADOWN 0
SLOVAN BRATISLAVA 2 (Timpko 58, Rosnac 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000.

ROMAR PANEVEZYS (Lit) 0
AIK STOCKHOLM 2 (Johanson 26, Simpson 60)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000.

SKONTO RIGA 0
ABERDEEN 0
Att: 4,500.

SLAVIA PRAGUE 2 (Smicer 37, Suchoparek 60)
CORK CITY 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,690.

TBILISI DINAMO 2 (Kinkladze 27, S Arveladze 59)

UNIV. CRAIOVA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000

TEUTA DURRES 1 (Fraholli 7)
APOLLON 4 (Spoljaric 12, Christmarevic 30, Schepovic 35, Christmarevic 40)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 15,000.

VALLETTA 2 (Agius 16, Zerasa 68)
RAPID BUCHAREST 6 (Cheback 5, Vladoiu 14, 47, Tira 74, Chirita 77, Voinea 79)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 6,000.

VARDAR SKOPJE 1 (Milosevski 38)
BEKESCSABA 1 (Mracko 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000.

PRELIMINARY ROUND — 2ND LEG *(Aug 24 unless stated)*

ABERDEEN 1 (Kane 90)
SKONTO RIGA 1 (Semenov 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000.
Skonto on away goals: 1-1 on agg

AIK STOCKHOLM 2 (Lidman 21, 63)
ROMAR MAZEIKIAI 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000.
AIK 4-0 on agg

IA AKRANES 2 (Ingolfsson 8, Thordarsson 21)
BANGOR CITY 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 800.
IA Akranes 4-1 on agg

APOLLON 4 (Cepovic 24, 29, Hajiloizov 60, Pittas 89)
TEUTA 2 (Citsa 73, Ampazi 78)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000.
Apollon 8-3 on agg

ARARAT YEREVAN 0
CSKA SOFIA 0
Att: 7,000.
CSKA 3-0 on agg

BEKESCSABA 1 (Csato 61)
VARDAR SKOPJE 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,500.
Bekescsaba 2-1 on agg

CORK CITY 0
SLAVIA PRAGUE 4 (Hogen 33, 50, Vaura 49, Berger 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,600.
Slavia Prague 6-0 on agg

FLORA TALLINN 0
OB ODENSE 3 (Hemmingsen 19, 49, Tchami 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,000.
OB 6-0 on agg

GKS KATOWICE 6 (Walczak 25, 83, Maciejewski 33, 45, Jojko 75, Wolny 89)
INTER CARDIFF 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 4,500.
GKS 8-0 on agg

HAPOEL BS 1 (Madar 45)
ARIS SALONIKA 2 (Bougiuklis 30, Milojevic 55)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,800.
Aris 5-2 on agg

HB THORSHAVN 1 (Hansen 59)
MOTHERWELL 4 (Kirk 13, 69, Davies 20, Burns 88)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 750.
Motherwell 7-1 on agg

FC JAZZ 0
FC COPENHAGEN 4 (Johansen 54, M Nielsen 81, Frandsen 83, A Nielsen 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,800.
Copenhagen 4-1 on agg

LEVSKI SOFIA 1 (Stoilov 2)
OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA 2 (Novak 24, Paulin 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,800.
Olimpija 5-3 on agg

LINFIELD 3 (Beatty 15, Gorman 31, Peebles 36)
FH 1 (Podunavac 21)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 6,000.
Linfield 3-2 on agg

HIBERNIANS 4 (Ostrovsky og 35, Xerri 71, Spiteri 90, Miller 109)
MINSK DINAMO 3 (Yuravin 44 pen, Plaskevic 94, Spiteri og 105)
HT: 1-1. **90min:** 3-1. **Att:** 2,400.
Minsk 6-5 on agg after extra time

MURA 0
AARAU 1 (Skrzypczak 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,800.
Aarau 2-0 on agg

MyPa 0
INTER BRATISLAVA 1 (Repec 3)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 800.
MyPa 3-1 on agg

RAPID BUCHAREST 1 (Tira 32)
VALLETTA 1 (Agius 22)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000.
Rapid 7-3 on agg

ROSENBORG 6 (Strand 37, 87, Bergersen 45, Jakobsen 62, Brattbakk 77, 84)
GREVENMACHER 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 11,000.
Rosenborg 8-1 on agg

SHAKTYOR DONETSK 2 (Orbu 49, Petrov 58)
LILLESTROM 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,000.
Lillestrom 4-3 on agg

SHAMROCK ROVERS 0
GORNIK ZABRZE 1 (Baluszynski 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000.
Gornik Zabrze 7-0 on agg

SHUMEN 1 (Iskrenov 43 pen)
ANORTHOSIS 2 (Ashiotis 60, Gogic 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,750.
Anorthosis 4-1 on agg

SLOVAN BRATISLAVA 3 (Faktor 15, Tottel 33, Rusnak 65)
PORTADOWN 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,000.
Slovan Bratislava 5-0 on agg

TRELLEBORG 3 (Karlsson 6pen, Eriksson 12, Rasmusson 48)
GI GOTA 2 (H Jarnskor 55, M Jarnskor 83)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,500.
Trelleborg 4-2 on agg

TURAN 0
FENERBAHCE 2 (Nail 83 pen, Ulgun 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000.
Fenerbahce 7-0 on agg

UNIV CRAIOVA 1 (Pigulea 59)
TBILISI DYNAMO 2 (Kavelashvili 3, Kimbladze 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,000.
Tbilisi 4-1 on agg

ZIMBRUL 0
KISPEST HONVED 1 (Orosz 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000.
Kispest Honved 5-1 on agg

FIRST ROUND DRAWS

CUP-WINNERS CUP —
FC Pirin (Bul) v Panathinaikos (Gre), Besiktas (Tur) v HJK Helsinki (Fin), Croatia Zagreb (Cro) v Auxerre (Fra), Grasshopper (Swi) v Chernomorets (Ukr), Austria Wien (Aut) v Maribor (Sloven), Bodo/Glimt (Nor) v Sampdoria (Ita), Brondby (Den) v SK Tirana (Alb), Chelsea v Viktoria Zizkov (Cze), Werder Bremen (Ger) v Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr), CSKA Moscow (Rus) v Ferencvaros (Hun), Omonia Nicosia (Cyp) v Arsenal, Dundee Utd v Tatran Presov (Slovak), Zaragoza (Spa) v Gloria Bistrita (Rom), Sligo (Ire) v Club Brugge (Bel), FC Porto (Por) v LKS Lodz (Pol), Zhalgiris Vilnius (Lit) v Feyenoord (Hol).
Matches to be played over two legs on 15 & 29 September

UEFA CUP —
Anorthosis (Cyp) v Athletic Bilbao (Spa), CSKA Sofia (Bul) v Juventus (Ita), GKS Katowice (Pol) v Aris Salonika (Gre), Aarau (Swi) v Maritimo (Por), Olympiakos (Gre) v Marseille (Fra), Rosenborg (Nor) v La Coruna (Spa), Apollon (Cyp) v Sion (Swi), FC Twente (Hol) v Kispest-Honved (Hun), Vitesse (Hol) v Parma (Ita), Kaiserslautern (Ger) v IA Akranes (Ice), Antwerp (Bel) v Newcastle, Linfield (NI) v Odense BK (Den), Inter (Ita) v Aston Villa, Ein. Frankfurt (Ger) v SCT Olimpija (Sloven), Seraing (Bel) v Moscow Dynamo (Rus), AIK Stockholm (Swe) v Slavia Prague (Cze), Minsk Dinamo (Bye) v Lazio (Ita), Leverkusen (Ger) v PSV (Hol), Boavista (Por) v MyPa (Fin), Gornik Zabrze (Pol) v Admira Wacker (Aut), Rotor Volgograd (Rus) v Nantes (Fra), Napoli (Ita) v Skonto Riga (Lat), Slovan Bratislava (Slovak) v FC Copenhagen (Den), Trabzonspor (Tur) v Dinamo Bucharest (Rom), Real Madrid (Spa) v Sporting (Por), Cannes (Fra) v Fenerbahce (Tur), Rapid Bucharest (Rom) v Charleroi (Bel), Dynamo Tiblisi (Geo) v Innsbruck (Aut), Bor. Dortmund (Ger) v Motherwell, Bordeaux (Fra) v Lillestrom (Nor), Blackburn v Trelleborgs (Swe), Bekescsabai (Hun) v Tekstilishik Karnychine (Rus)
Matches to be played over two legs on 13 & 27 September

INTERNATIONAL

● *NOTE: These international details include extra information for some pre-World Cup matches which were excluded in previous issues due to lack of space.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Jun 1 = Skopje — friendly
MACEDONIA 2 (Boskovski 12, Kanatlarovski 36)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Momirov (Bul)
Macedonia: Trajcev (Z Micevski 86) — Grozdanov (Stankovski 73), Jovanovski, Kanatlarovbski (V Micevski 82), M Stojkovski — Markovski, Serafimovski, Memet (Marjan Stojkovski 83) — T Micevski (Borov 38), Pancev, Boskovski.
Estonia: Poom — R Kallaste, T Kallaste, Lemsalu, Olesk — Linnumae, Olumets (Paris 60), Klavans, Reim, Lindmae — Kristal.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Jun 3 = Rome — friendly
ITALY 1 (Signori 24)
SWITZERLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,019.
Italy: Pagliuca — Tassotti (Mussi 46), Maldini (Benarrivo 46), D Baggio, Costacurta, Baresi, Donadoni, Albertini (Evani 46), Berti, R Baggio, Signori (Massaro 46)
Switzerland: Lehmann — Hottiger, Quentin, Herr (Egli 46), Geiger, Bregy, A Sutter, Ohrel (Subiat 75), Bickel (Grassi 75), Sforza, Chapuisat (Sylvestre 76).

Jun 3 = Sofia — friendly
BULGARIA 1 (Sirakov 18)
UKRAINE 1 (Sak 55)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Porumboiu (Rom)
Bulgaria: Nikolov — Kremenliev (Kiriakov 46), T Ivanov, Tsvetanov, Hubchev (N Iliev 46), Iankov (Georgiev 46), Balakov, (Guentchev 46), Stoichkov (Iotov 65), Lechkov (Iordanov 46; Andonov 74), Sirakov (Alexandrov 46), Borimirov (Mihtarski 46).
Ukraine: Tiapushkin — Luzhni, Bezhinar, Diriavka, Popov (Sak 46), Kovalets (Maximov 81), Shmatovalenko, Mihailenko, Shkapenko, Leonenko, Skachenko.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Jun 8 = Adelaide — friendly
AUSTRALIA 1 (Aurelio Vidmar 11)
SOUTH AFRICA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,203. **Ref:** Connolly (Aus)
Australia: Kalac (Schwarzer 76) — T Vidmar, Lazaridis, Ivanovic, Tobin, Durakovic — Okon, Wade, Mori (Markovski 74) — Viduka, A Vidmar.
S Africa: Crowley — Motaung, Kompheia, Tucker, Seale — Tovey, Tinkler (Ramasike 84), Mosheou, Fish — Augustine (Maponyane 68), P Masinga.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Jun 11 = Montreal — friendly
SWITZERLAND 0
BOLIVIA 0
Att: 2,500. **Ref:** Lodge (Eng)
Switzerland: Pascolo (Lehmann 46) — Hottiger, Herr, Geiger, Quentin — Bregy, Ohrel, Sforza (Bickel 75), Sutter — Knup, (Subiat 71), Chapuisat.
Bolivia: Trucco — Sandy, Quinteros, Rimba — Borja (Sorucco 67), Cristaldo, Soria, Melgar, Sanchez (Ramos 81), Ramallo (Moreno 76), Baldivieso.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Jun 12 = Sydney — friendly
AUSTRALIA 1 (Polak 38)
SOUTH AFRICA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000.
Australia: Schwarzer — T Vidmar, Lazaridis, Ivanovic, Durakovic — Tobin, Polak, Wade, Mori — Viduka, A Vidmar.
S Africa: Crowley — Motaung, Seale, Komphela, Tucker — Khumalo, Fish, Tovey, Mohoeu — Mudau, P Massinga.

Jun 12 = Mission Viejo — friendly
SWEDEN 1 (Ingesson 57)
ROMANIA 1 (Hagi 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Patlak (US)
Sweden: Ravelli (Eriksson 46) — R Nisson (Kamark 76), Bjorklund, Eriksson, Ljung — Ingesson, Thern, Rehn (Mild 46), Limpar, (Blomqvist 46) — Brolin, Dahlin (K Andersson 46).
Romania: Stelea (Prunea 69) — Petrescu, Prodan, Mihali (Gilca 77), Belodedici, Munteanu (Selymesi 87), Popescu (Vladoiu 61), Lupescu, Dumitrescu (Stinga 79), Hagi (Papura 86), Raducioiu, (Ivan 61).

Jun 12 = Fresno — friendly
EL SALVADOR 0
BRAZIL 4 (Romario 9, Bebeto 15, Zinho 51, Rai 62)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 13,210.
El Salvador: Melendez — Gamez, Joya (Portillo), Trigueros, Carcamo — Estrada, Vazquez, Contreras (Batres), Cienfuegos — Correas, Diaz.
Brazil: Zetti — Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomes (Marcio Santos), Mauro Silva, Dunga, Mazinho (Rai), Zinho, Leonardo, Bebeto, Romario (Muller).

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Jul 10 = Nagoya — friendly
JAPAN 3 (K Miura 14, 30, Natsuka 80)
GHANA 2 (Aboagye 1, Asare 40)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 25,000.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

Jul 14 = Kobe — friendly
JAPAN 2 (Iwamoto 23, Kazu Miura 52)
GHANA 1 (Lamptey 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,000.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Jul 29 = Vilnius — Baltic Cup
LITHUANIA 3 (Ivanauskas 10, 23, Mikalajunas 60)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Lajkus (Lat)
Lithuania: Stauce — Ziukas (Pankratievas 70), Baltusniskas, (Stonkus 57), Gudaitis, Tereskinas — Skarbalius, Korsakovas, Stumbrys Zalys 63), Aparavicius (Mikalajunas 55) — Vaineikis, (Zuta 52), Ivanauskas.
Estonia: Poom — R Kallaste, Linnumae, G Olesk, T Kallaste — Saks, (O'Konnel 56), Klavans (Lemsalu 69), Lindmae, Paris (Ratnikos 46) — Kristal (Lelov 69), Reim.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Jul 30 = Vilnius — Baltic Cup
LATVIA 2 (Astafiev 31, Boulders 37)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Dubinskas (Lit)
Latvia: Karavayev (Laizans 62) — Troisky, Astafiev, Erglis, Zemlicky — Popkov (Monjak 62), Emelianov (Fedotov 46), Mikutsky, Zeiberlinch (Blagonadiez-dine 46) — Charanda (Rihter 56), Boulders.
Estonia: Poom — Lensalu, R Kallaste, G Olesk, T Kallaste — Lindmae, Paris (Ratnikov 53), Klavans, O'Konel (Saks 28) — Reim, Kristal.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Jul 31 = Vilnius — Baltic Cup
LITHUANIA 1 (Tereskinas 68 pen)
LATVIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Timofeyev (Est)
Lithuania: Stauce — Ziukas, Stonkus, Gudaitis, Tereskinas — Skarbalius, Korsakovas (Vainoras 58), Stumbrys (Zuta 55), Mikalajunas (Aparavicius 46) — Vaineikas, Zalys (Darincevas 85).
Latvia: Karavayev — Trosiky, Astafiev (Rihter), Erglis, Zemlinsky — Jeliseyev (Popkov 46), Emelianov, Mikutsky (Monjak 67), Zeiberlinch (Blagonadiez-dine 46) — Charanda, Boulders.
● ***Lithuania won 1994 Baltic Cup***

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

Aug 8 = Abidjan — friendly
IVORY COAST 2 (Kamara 55, Hyacinthe 72)
MALI 1 (Bakayoko 46)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Aug 16 = Bratislava — friendly
SLOVAKIA 1 (Hipp 3)
MALTA 1 (Laferla 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Finzinger (Aut)
Slovakia: Vencel — M Zeman (I Kozak 46), Tittel, Gionek (Vrto 46), Hipp (Tomaschek 46), Kinder — Weiss (Hyravy 46), Moravcik, Dubovsky — Timko (Rusnak 58), Penksa (Zvara 58).
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, Galea, Buttigieg, Buhagiar — J Brincat, Busuttil, Saliba, J Camilleri — Gregory (E Camilleri 46), Laferla.

Aug 16 = Akureyri — friendly
ICELAND 4 (Orlygsson 18, 39, 44, Gudjohnsson 54)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Iceland: B Kristinsson (Fridriksson 75) — Gislason, Jonsson, (Adolfsson 60), Gretarsson (Kristjansson 75), Steffansson — Orlygsson (Ingolfsson 70), Bergsson, Thordarsson, Gunnlaugsson — Gudjohnsen, Sverrison (Gudjohnsson 46).
Estonia: Tohver — R Kallaste, Lemsalu, Alonen, Kaijend — Klavan, (Ratnikov 75), Kristal (Saks 46), Pari (Olesk 46), Linnumae — Reim, Kron (Kirs 46).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Aug 17 = Klagenfurt — friendly
AUSTRIA 0
RUSSIA 3 (Beschastnikh 42, Nikiforov 52, Simeuntekov 82pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Nikakas (Gre)
Austria: Wohlfarht (Konrad 46) — Kogler, Lainer, Pfeffer — A Hutter, Stoger (Flogel 56), A Herzog (Prosenik 56), F Aigner, (Schottel 74), Feiersinger — Schachner (H Cerny 17), Hasenhuttl, (Wetl 83).
Russia: Cherchesov (Kharin 46) — Rakhimov (Radimov 46), Mamedov, Nikiforov, Ternavski (Kulkov 60) — Essipov (Mandreko 46), Onopko, (Kosolapov 85), Tetradze (Niedergaus 83), Tsimbalar — Simeuntekov, Beschastnikh.

Aug 17 = Ramat Gan — friendly
ISRAEL 0
CROATIA 4 (Cvitanovic 3, 36, Juercevic 53, Mumlek 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Souli (Isr)
Israel: R Cohen (Ginzburg 46) — A Harazi, Shelach, Klinger, Glam, (Keisy 46) — Hazan, Levy, Banin, Berkowitz (Jano 46), Atar (R Harazi 46) — Rosenthal (Turjman 70).
Croatia: Ladic — Turkovic, Jarni, Krajkovic, Soldo — Pavlicic, (Toplak 84), Mladenovic (Halilovic 46), Asanovic (Andrijassevic 65), Boban — Jurcevic (Mumlek 70), Cvitanovic.

Aug 17 = Lima — friendly
PERU 2 (Palacios 31, Saenz 67)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000.

Aug 17 = Bordeaux — friendly
FRANCE 2 (Zidane 85, 87)
CZECH REPUBLIC 2 (Skuhravy 42, Smejkal 45)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Gruber (Aut)
France: Lama — Thuram, L Blanc, Ngotty, Angloma, Di Meco, C Martins (Zidane 62), Desailly (J-M Ferri 24), Cantona, Dugarry, (Loko 76), Ginola (Lizarazu 46).
Czech Rep: Kouba — Suchoparek, Repka, Kubik, Smejkal, Nemecek, Novotny, Latal (Berger 64), Nemec (Poborsky 60), Skuhravy (Samec 81), Siegl (Kuka 46).

Aug 17 = Copenhagen — friendly
DENMARK 2 (B Laudrup 66, Wieghorst 74)
FINLAND 1 (Suominen 40)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,692. **Ref:** Benko (Aus)
Denmark: Schmeichel — Helveg, Hogh, Rieper, Friis Hansen — Vilfort (Wieghorst 46), M Laudrup, Steen Nielsen, Andersen — B Laudrup, Povlsen (Strudal 46).
Finland: Niemi — Maakel, Hyrylinen, Heikkinen (Holmgren 31), Heinoma — Suominen, Altonen (Nurmela 72), Lindberg, Rantanen, (Paavola 73), Hjelm — Paatelainen.

Aug 17 = Orebro — friendly
SWEDEN 4 (Brolin 20 pen, 26, P Andersson 36, Larsson 72)
LITHUANIA 2 (Vainekis 54, Skarbalius 56)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 11,260. **Ref:** Young (Sco)
Sweden: Ravelli (L Eriksson 46) — R Nilsson (M Nilsson 62), P Andersson (Kaamark 46), Bjorklund, Ljung — Brolin, Rehn, Mild, (Blomqvist 62), Ingesson — Larsson (Erlingmark 74), K Andersson.
Lithuania: Poskus — Baltusniskas, Ziukas, Gudaitis, Maizekis, Tereskinas — Aparavicius (Vainoras 85), Vainekis (Stonkus 82), Stumbrys, Skarbalius (Suika 76) — Zalys (Zuta 46).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Sep 4 = Harare — Af Chp Gp 1
ZIMBABWE 5
LESOTHO 0

Sep 4 = Dakar — Af Chp Gp 2
SENEGAL 0
MAURITANIA 0

Sep 4 = Monrovia — Af Chp 2
LIBERIA 1
TOGO 0

Sep 4 = Bissau — Af Chp Gp 2
GUINEA BISSAU 1
TUNISIA 3

Sep 4 = Pointe Noire — Af Chp Gp 3
CONGO 1
GAMBIA 1

Sep 4 = Addis Ababa — Af Chp Gp 4
ETHIOPIA 0
ALGERIA 0

Sep 4 = Dar es Salaam — Af Chp Gp 4
TANZANIA 4
UGANDA 0

Sep 4 = Aantananarivo — Af Chp Gp 5
MADAGASCAR 0
SOUTH AFRICA 1

Sep 4 = Bamako — Af Chp Gp 6
MALI 2
MOZAMBIQUE 1

Sep 4 = Tel-Aviv — EC gp 1
ISRAEL 2 (R Harazi 43, 58)
POLAND 1 (Kosecki 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel)
Israel: Ginzburg — Balbul, Azan, A HArazi, Glam — Klinger, Berkovic (Levy 86), Banin, Revivo — Rosenthal (Atar 89), R Harazi.
Poland: Wandzik — Bonk, Maciejewski, Waldoch, Szewczyk — Lapinski, Jalocha (Chenik 46), Mielcarski (Gesior 58), Kosecki — Kowalczyk, Bjenczek.

Sep 4 = Tallinn — EC gp 4
ESTONIA 0
CROATIA 2 (Suker 44, 75)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,250. **Ref:** Krondl (Cze)
Estonia: Poom — Lensalu, Prins, Kaljend, Kallaste, Alonen, Olomets (Reim 46), Klavan, Kristal, Kirs (Krom 46), Linnumae.
Croatia: Ladic — Turkovic, Jarni, Stimac, Jerkan, Bilic, Asanovic, (Cvitanovic 46), Prosinecki, Suker, Boban, Boksic.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Sep 6 = Prague — EC gp 5
CZECH REPUBLIC 6 (Smejkal 6, Kubik 33, Siegl 35, 49, 81, Berger 89)
MALTA 1 (Laferla 75)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,226.
Czech Rep: Kouba — Kubik, Suchoparek, Novotny, Latal (Vesely 86), Nemecek, Frydek (Berger 83), Smejkal, Nemec, P Kuka, Siegl.
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, J Camilleri, Galea, Brincat, Buttigieg, Busuttil, Saliba, Gregory (E Camilleri 83), Laferla, Buhagiar.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Sep 7 = Brussels — EC gp 2
BELGIUM 2 (Krbashian og 4, Degryse 73)
ARMENIA 0
Belgium: Preud'homme — Genaux, De Wolf, Albert, Smidts, Staelens, (Emmers 78), Van der Elst, Van der Heyden (Boffin 68), Degryse, Oliveira, Weber.
Armenia: A Petrossian — Tonoyan, Ovsepian, Oganessian, Soukiassian, Khatchatourian, Krbashian, Grigorian, Mkhitarian, A Petrossian, Chakhguefdian (Avetissian 46).

Sep 7 = Limassol — EC gp 2
CYPRUS 1 (Soteriou 36)
SPAIN 2 (Higueras 15, 25)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 10,000.
Cyprus: Panayiotou — Costa, Pittas, Constandinou, Christophi, Charalambous, D Ioannou, Phasouliotis (Malekos), Gogic, Sotiriou, Savvides (Andreou).
Spain: Zubizarreta — Camarasa, Salvador, Guardiola (Caminero), Nadal, Hierro, Goikoetxea, Guerrero, Higuera, Amavisca, (Ciganda), Sergi.

Sep 7 = Wembley — friendly
ENGLAND 2 (Shearer 33, 40)
UNITED STATES 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,629. **Ref:** L Nieto (Spa)
England: Seaman — Jones, Le Saux, Venison, Adams, Pallister, Platt, Barnes, Shearer (Wright 80), Sherringham (Ferdinand 80), Anderton.
US: Friedel (Sommer 80) — Agoos (Lapper 70), Balboa, Caligiuri, Laias, Dooley, Jones, Sorber, Reyna (Moore 80), Perez (Wynalda 46), Stewart (Klopas 80).

Sep 7 = Toftir — EC 8 gp
FAROE ISLANDS 1 (Rasmussen 89)
GREECE 5 (Saravakos 12, Tsalouhidis 16, 86, Alexandris 55, 65)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,412.
Faroe Islands: Knudsen — Tummas E Hansen, Jens K Hansen, Abraham Hansen, Johannesen, Dam, A Morkore (Jens E Rasmussen 84), M Jarnskor, Jan A Muller, Todi Jonsson, Ossur Hansen (H Jarnskor 55).
Greece: Karkamanis — Apostolakis, Karataidis, Pavlopoulos, Kalitzakis, Tsalouchidis, Saravakos, Kostis (Marcos 77), Hantzidis (Zagorakis 80), Tsartas, Alexandris.

Sep 7 = Helsinki — EC gp 8
FINLAND 0
SCOTLAND 2 (Shearer 29, Collins 66)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12, 845. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol).
Finland: Jakonen — Makela, Kanerva, Hyrylainen, Heinola (Holmgren 30), Suominen, Rantanen (Jarvinen 42), Lindberg, Hjelm, Litmanen, Paatelainen.
Scotland: Goram — McKimmie, Boyd, McLaren, Hendry, Levein (McCall 78), Walker (Jess 65), McStay, Shearer, McAllister, Collins.

Sep 7 = Tbilisi — EC gp 7
GEORGIA 0
MOLDOVA 1 (Oprya 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** A Sakari (Tur).
Georgia: Zoidze — Nemsadze, Tskhadadze, Shelia, Kavelashvili, R Arveladze, A Arveladze, Dzhabarauli, Guruli, Kinkladze, S Arveladze.
Moldova: Koshelev — Seku, Belousov, Pogorelov, A Stroenko, V Stroenko, Oprya, Kurdianov, Nani, Spiridon, Kreshchenko.

Sep 7 = Budapest — EC gp 3
HUNGARY 2 (Kiprich 5, Halmai 45)
TURKEY 2 (Hakan 65, Bulent 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000.
Hungary: Petry — Telek, Lipcsei, Meszoely, Kozma, Halmai, Detari, Urban, Duro (Banfi 62), Kiprich (Wukovics 68), K Kovacs.
Turkey: Engin — Recep, Gokhan Keskin (Arif 46), Bulent, Orhan, Oguz, Tugay, Ogun, Iiker, Hakan, Ertugrul (Abdullah 87).

Sep 7 = Reykjavik — EC gp 3
ICELAND 0
SWEDEN 1 (Ingesson 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000
Iceland: B Kristinsson — R Kristinsson, K Jonsson, Bergsson, S Gislason, A Gudjohnsen, Orlygsson (B Gunnlaugsson 60), S Jonsson, Stefansson, A Gunnlaugsson, Sverrison.
Sweden: Ravelli — Nilsson, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Ljung, Brolin, Mild, Schwarz, Ingesson, Dahlin (H Larsson 67), K Andersson.

Sep 7 = Riga — EC gp 6
LATVIA 0
REP IRELAND 3 (Aldridge 16, 75 pen, Sheridan 29)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe).
Latvia: Karavajevs — Troickis, Astasjevs, Zemlinskis, Sevlakovs, Lobanevs, Sarando, Mikuckis (Jelisejeus 63), Babicevs, Milevskis, (Stephanous 46), Bulders.
Rep Ireland: A Kelly — G Kelly, Irwin, McGrath, Babb, McAteer, (McGoldrick 81), Townsend, Aldridge, Quinn (Cascarino 71), Sheridan, Staunton.

Sep 7 = Eschen — EC gp 6
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
AUSTRIA 4 (Polster 21, 45, 83, Aigner 22)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 5,800
Liechenstein: Heeb — Moser, Hefti, J Ospelt, Quaderer, Telser, Zech (Matt 68), Klaunzer, W Ospelt (Hanselmann 28), Frick, Hasler.
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Schoettel, Werner, Kogl/fr, Prosenik, Stoeger, Pfeifenberger (Flogel 74), Feiersinger, Aigner, A Ogris, (Cerny 63), Polster.

Sep 7 = Luxembourg — EC gp 5
LUXEMBOURG 0
HOLLAND 4 (Roy 23, R De Boer 65, 67, Jonk 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,200
Luxembourg: Koch — Birsens, Strasser, Wels, Vanek — Cardoni, (Morocutti 76), Holtz, Saibene, Wolf — Langers Theis 81), Groff.
Holland: De Goey — Valckx, Blind, F De Boer — Winter, Jonk, Bosman, Witschge — Overmars, R De Boer, Roy (Von Vossen 75).

Sep 7 = Skopje — EC gp 2
MACEDONIA 1 (Stojkovski 4)
DENMARK 1 (Povisen 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000.
Macedonia: Trajcev — Jovanoski, Stojkovski, Najdoski, Markovski, Stanojkovic, B Djurovski, Micevski, Babunski (Kanatlarovski 67), *Pancev, Boskovski (Serafimovski 82).
* *Pancev sent off, 46 min.*
Denmark: Schmeichel — L Olsen, Rieper, Kjeldbjerg, Steen Nielsen, Helveg, J Jensen (H Larsen 67), Vilfort (Povlsen 53), B Laudrup, M Laudrup, B Christensen.

Sep 7 = Belfast — EC gp 6
NORTHERN IRELAND 1 (Quinn 58 pen)
PORTUGAL 2 (Costa 8, Oliviera 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Peterson (Nor).
N Ireland: Fettis — Fleming, Worthington, Morrow (Taggart 81), McDonald, Magilton, Gillespie (O'Boyle 81), Lomas, Quinn, Gray, Hughes.
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto I, Helder, Paulo Madeira, Paulinho Santos, Paulo Sousa, Vitor Paneira (Antonio Folha 63), Jose Tavares, Figo, Rui Costa, Sa Pinto (Domingos Oliveira 80).

Sep 7 = Oslo — EC gp 5
NORWAY 1 (Frigaard 88)
BYELORUSSIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,739
Norway: Grodaas — Lydersen, Berg, T Pedersen, Bjornebye, Flo, (Frigaard 70), Mykland, Rekdal, Bohinen (Leonhardsen 46), J I Jakobsen, Fjortoft.

Byelorussia: Shantasolov — Yakhimovitch, Gurenko, Zygmantovich, Sosnitsky, Antonovitch, Khatskevitch, Kulanin (Katchuro 46), Metlitsky, Gerasimets, Markhel.

Sep 7 = Bucharest — EC gp 1
ROMANIA 3 (Belodedici 43, Petrescu 58, Raducioiu 88)
AZERBAIJAN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Romania: Stelea — Petrescu, Prodan, Belodedici, Lupescu (D Timofte 75), Popescu, Lacatus, Dumitrescu, Raducioiu, Munteanu, Selymes (Carstea 84).
Azerbaijan: Jitcov — Alahverdiev, Grozdov, Ahmedov, Asatov, Abusev, Guseinov (Agaev 80), Deniev, Kasumov, Suleimanov (Rzaev 59), Alekperov.

Sep 7 = Moscow — friendly
RUSSIA 0
GERMANY 1 (Kuntz 12)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,000.
Russia: Cherchesov — Kulkov, Mamedov, Nikiforov, Onopko, Tsimbalar, Kanchelskis (Karpin 46), Pyatnitsky, Shalimov, (Tetradze 46), Kiryakov, Kolyvanov (Radchenko 46).
Germany: Kopke — Helmer, Kohler, Matthaus, Strunz, Weber, Basler, (Moller 62), Eilts, Hassler, Klinsmann, Kuntz (Riedle 75).

Sep 7 = Bratislava — EC gp 1
SLOVAKIA 0
FRANCE 0
Att: 17,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).
Slovakia: Molnar — Stupala, Glonek, Kinder, Zeman — Tittel, Tomaschek, Kristofik, Moravcik — Rusnak (Weiss 80), Zvara, (Penska 64).
France: Lama — Angloma, Blanc, Roche, Di Meco — Djorkaeff, (Lizarazu 81), Deschamps, Le Guen, Pedros (Dugarry 63) — Cantona, Ginola.

Sep 7 = Maribor — EC gp 4
SLOVENIA 1 (Udovic 14)
ITALY 1 (Costacurta 16)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
Slovenia: Simeunovic — Galic, Englaro, Milanic, Jermans, Ceh, Novak, Katanec (Binkovski 58), Zidan (Krizan 88), Udovic, Gliha.
Italy: Pagliuca — Mussi, Panucci, Albertini, Costacurta, Baresi, Donadoni, D Baggio (Berti 57), Casiraghi, Zola (Evani 57), Signori.

Sep 7 = Kiev — EC gp 4
UKRAINE 0
LITHUANIA 2 (Ivanauskas 53, Skarbalius 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Bou (Swe).
Ukraine: Tiapushkin — Skrypnyk, Sak, Yevtushok, Popov, Petrov, Pochlebaiev (Nagorniak 60), Maksimov, Finkel, Protasov, Konovalov.
Lithuania: Stauce — Ziukas, Sukristovas, Tereskinas, Vainoras, Vaineikas (Stonkus 81), Gudaitis, Ivanauskas, Shtymbrys, Sulka, (Zuta 55), Skarbalius.

Sep 7 = Cardiff — EC gp 7
WALES 2 (Coleman 9, Giggs 67)
ALBANIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,500. **Ref:** Beschin (Ita).
Wales: Southall — Williams, Bodin, Melville, Coleman, Goss, (Pembridge 75), Phillips, Speed, Rush, Blake (Roberts 80), Giggs.
Albania: Strakosha — A Kola (Fortuzi 53), Shulku, Xhumba, Vata, Kacaj, Shchu (Dosti 81), Bellai, B Kola, Pano, Demollari.

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

2nd round, 2nd leg

July 24 — In Sao Paulo, Brazil
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Euler 2)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 1 (Evair)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Antonio Pereira Das Silva (Bra).
Sao Paulo won 2-1 on agg.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Junior Baiano, Gimlar, Andre, Valber, Axel, Cafu, Palinha (Ronaldo Luiz), Euler, Muller.
Palmeiras: Fernandes, Claudio (Jean Carlo), Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio, Mazinho, Edilson, Zinho, Edmundo, Evair.
● Good defence and lethal counter-attacks gave Sao Paulo the narrow victory although Palmeiras had more chances to score in the first half.

Quarter-finals, 1st leg

July 27 — In Medellin, Colombia.
INDEP. MEDELLIN (Col) 0
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 2
(McKenzie, R. Valderrama)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000.
Independiente: Barbat, Pino, Pimentel, Fernandez, Pareja, Alvarez, Perez, Fajardo (Torres), Juarez, Castro, Gomez.
Junior: Pazzo, Briasco, Perea, Cassiani, Galeano, Mendez (R. Valderrama), Grau, C. Valderrama, McKenzie, Valenciano (Rodriguez), Pacheco.
● Independiente pressed more, but Colombian champions Junior scored in opportune counter-attacks. But Junior's second goal, to make sure of victory, only came in the final minute — scored by Ronaldo Valderrama, cousin of the Colombian national team captain and a newcomer to the club who came on as a substitute.

In Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.
MINERVEN (Ven) 0
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
Ref: Salvador Imperatore (Chi)
Minerven: Angelucci, Pacheco (MacIntosh), Tortolero, E. Garcia, Morales, Vera, Jaimes, Grueso, Erramuspe, Balcucho (Marquez), S. Rivas.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Basualdo, M. Gomez (Husain), Bassedas, F. Dominguez, Asad, Flores.
● Velez Sarsfield had midfield control throughout, but were rarely dangerous even though Minerven seemed to be more intent on avoiding defeat than going out for a first leg lead.

In La Paz, Bolivia.
BOLIVIAR (Bol) 0
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Sandy og)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Jaime Tejada (Peru).
Bolivar: Trucco, Borja, Sandy, Villegas, Rimba, Teran (Cuerto), Soria, Baldivieso, Salaberry, Antelo, Kenig.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, Celso, Ayala, Suarez, V. Sanabria, Jara, Sotelo, Franco, N. Sanabria (Del Valle), Cardozo (Castro).
● Bolivar missed chances with poor attacking and should have had the match wrapped up before Sandy put through his own goal four minutes from the end to give Olimpia a lucky victory.

In Santiago, Chile.
UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 1
(Sanchez)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Juninho)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Union Espanola: Rebajda, Lucca, Gonzalez, Figueroa, Galdames (Cruz), Rivero, Salas, Donoso (Montecinos), Sierra, Sanchez, Ruiz.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Valber, Junior Baiano, Gilmar, Vitor, Andre, Doriva, Axel (Ronaldo Luiz), Juninho, Muller, Euler.
● In an interesting match, with both teams going for goals, Sao Paulo showed up better for their teamwork, but Union kept them at bay with some very good individual performances.

Quarter-finals, 2nd leg

Aug 3 — In Barranquilla, Colombia.
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 0
INDEP. MEDELLIN (Col) 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Jorge Castrilli (Arg).
Atletico Junior won 2-0 on agg
Junior: Pazo, Briasco, Mendoza, Cassiani, Galeano, Mendez, Grau, McKenzie, C. Valderrama, Pacheco, Valenciano (Rodriguez).
Independiente: Barbat, Pino, Pimentel, Fernandez, Pareja, Perez, Alvares, Botero (Braydi), Juarez (Fajardo), Castro, Gomez.
● Junior, with a 2-0 first leg lead, played more defensively and independiente could not get through.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 2
(Flores, Asad)
MINERVEN (Ven) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Velez Sarsfield won 2-0 on agg
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardoso, J. Basualdo, Gomez, Bassedas, Asad (Pompei), Fernandez, Flores (Hussain).
Minerven: Angelucci, McIntosh, Tortolero, Garcia, Vera, Jaimes, Grueso, Erramuspe, Balcucho, S. Rivas, J. Garcia.
● Velez were well on top, but missed many chances before going ahead just before half-time. Their second came from a rebound when Angelucci punched out a penalty from Trotta.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Sanabria, Jara)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Bra).
Olimpia won 3-0 on agg
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, C. Ayala, Ramirez, S. Ayala, Jara Heyn, V. Sanabria, Franco (Girland), Sotelo, Cardozo, M. Sanabria (Del Valle).
Bolivar: Trucco, Borja, Sandy, Figuchi, Cristaldo, Rimba, Soria (Suarez), Baldivieso, Rios, Salaverry, Kening.
● Olimpia was on top and could have scored more, but for keeper Trucco.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil
SAO PAULO (Bra) 4 (Palinha, Valber, Andre, Euler)
UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 3
(Sanchez 2, Sierra)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Jose Torres.
Sao Paulo won 5-4 on agg
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Valber, Junior Baiano, Gilmar, Vitor (Ronaldo Luiz), Doriva, Axel, Palinha (Juninho), Andre, Euler, Muller.
Union Espanola: Rabajda, Galdames, Figueroa, Lucca (Morales), Gonzalez, Riveros, Rojas, Salas, Sierra (Montesinos), Ruiz, Sanchez.
● Leading comfortably by 2-0 at half-time, Sao Paulo underestimated their rivals as they seemed content to sit on their lead. But the Chilean team surprised them, reducing the lead within six minutes of the restart and attacking more, though never able to take the lead.

Semi-finals, 1st leg

In Sao Paulo, Brazil
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Palinha pen., Muller)
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Cardozo)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Valber, Junior Baiano, Gilmar, Vitor, Doriva, Axel, Palhinha, Andre, Muller, Euler.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, C. Ayala, Suarez, Jara Heyn, V. Sanabria, Franco, Sotelo, Del Valle, Cardozo.
● With Olimpia dominating more of the game, Sao Paulo were lucky to be awarded a doubtful penalty when trailing 1-0. Palhinha netted the penalty after 39 minutes after he was adjudged to have been fouled by Celso Ayala who however clearly took the ball off him first.

In Barranquilla, Colombia.
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 2
(Valenciano 2)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 1
(Flores)
HT: 1-0.
Junior: Passo, Brisco, Mendoza, Cassiani, Galeano, Grau (R. Valderra), Mendez, Pacheco (Araujo), Valderrama, C., Valenciano, Rodriguez.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Cardozo, Sotomayor, Trotta, Bassedas, J. Basualdo, Hussain, Gomez, Asad (Fernandez), Flores.
● Valenciano surprised Velez Sarsfield with a long shot to score after only two minutes and he was a constant thorn for the Argentine defence as he hit the crossbar with a free-kick in the first half and also scored the winner 10 minutes from the end apart from coming close on other occasions. Velez Sarsfield played a more defensive game which almost gained them a point when they equalized in the second half and they also had the ball in the net twice when players not directly involved in play were offside.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

May 22: Jalisco XI (Mex) 1 Internazionale (Ita) 0; Union Espanola (Chi) 1 Real Madrid (Spa) 0
May 25: Guadalajara (Mex) 1 Milan (Ita) 1
May 29: Mexico Select. 2 Ajax (Hol) 1
July 15: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 Universidad Catolica (Chi) 0
July 18 **— Tournament in Uruguay:** Nacional (Uru) 1 Racing (Arg) 3; Rampla Juniors (Uru) 0 San Lorenzo (Arg) 0 *(Rampla won 2-1 on pens).*
Final: Racing (Arg) 1 Rampla Juniors (Uru) 0. **3rd place:** Nacional (Uru) 2 San Lorenzo (Arg) 1
July 30: Once Caldas (Col) 2 Cruzeiro (Bral) 5
FUSAL Cup *(in El Salvador)* — Atlas (Mex) 3 Olimpia (Hon) 1; FAS (ES) 4 Alianza (ES) 0
July 31 **— Final:** Atlas (Mex) 6 FAS (ES) 1.
3rd place: Alianza (ES) 0 Olimpia (Hon) 2
Aug 5: Comunicaciones (Guat) 0 Atlas (Mex) 0.

1994 LIBERTADORES CUP

First Round

Group 1
(Colombia — Paraguay)

02.03.94	Olimpia (P) v Cerro Portena (P)	1-0
04.03.93	Junior (C) v Indep Medellin (C)	0-1
09.03.94	Indep Medellin v Olimpia	0-0
12.03.93	Junior v Olimpia	0-0
16.03.94	Indep Medellin v Cerro Porteno	3-0
18.03.94	Junior v Cerro Porteno	3-2
24.03.94	Indep Medellin v Junior	0-1
05.04.94	Olimpia v Indep Medellin	0-2
08.04.94	Cerro Porteno v Indep Medellin	0-0
12.04.94	Olimpia v Junior	1-0
15.04.94	Cerro Porteno v Junior	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Medellin	6	3	2	1	6	1	8
Olimpia	6	3	2	1	5	3	8
Junior Barranqilla	6	2	1	3	4	5	5
Cerro Porteno	6	1	1	4	4	10	3

Group 2
(Argentina — Brazil)

13.02.94	Velez (A) v Boca Juniors (A)	1-1
02.03.94	Palmeiras (B) v Cruzeiro (B)	2-0
09.03.94	Cruzeiro v Velez Sarsfield	1-1
09.03.94	Palmeiras v Boca Juniors	6-1
16.03.94	Boca Juniors v Cruzeiro	1-2
17.03.94	Velez Sarsfield v Palmeiras	1-0
23.03.94	Boca Juniors v Velez Sarsfield	1-2
25.03.94	Cruzeiro v Palmeiras	2-1
30.03.94	Boca Juniors v Palmeiras	2-1
31.03.94	Velez Sarsfield v Cruzeiro	2-0
06.04.94	Cruzeiro v Boca Juniors	2-1
07.04.94	Palmeiras v Velez Sarsfield	4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	6	3	2	1	8	7	8
Cruzeiro	6	3	1	2	7	8	7
Palmeiras	6	3	0	3	14	7	6
Boca Juniors	6	1	1	4	7	14	3

Group 3
(Ecuador — Peru)

02.03.94	Universitario (P) v Alianza (P)	0-1
02.03.94	Emelec (E) v Barcelona (E)	0-1
08.03.94	Barcelona v Universitario	0-0
11.03.94	Emelec v Universitario	2-0
15.03.94	Barcelona v Alianza	3-0
18.03.94	Emelec v Alianza	3-0
23.03.94	Alianza v Universitario	1-2
23.03.94	Barcelona v Emelec	0-1
05.04.94	Alianza v Barcelona	2-1
08.04.94	Universitario v Barcelona	0-0
12.04.94	Alianza v Emelec	2-2
15.04.94	Universitario v Emelec	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Emelec	6	3	1	2	9	4	7
Universitario	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Barcelona	6	2	2	2	5	3	6
Alianza	6	2	1	3	6	11	5

Group 4
(Chile — Uruguay)

02.03.94	U. Espanola (C) v Colo Colo (C)	1-2
02.03.94	Defensor (U) v Nacional (U)	1-0
08.03.94	Union Espanola v Defensor	1-0
13.03.94	Colo Colo v Defensor	2-0
15.03.94	Union Espanola v Nacional	1-0
18.03.94	Colo Colo v Nacional	4-2
23.03.94	Colo Colo v Union Espanola	3-1
23.03.94	Nacional v Defensor	1-1
05.04.94	Defensor v Colo Colo	0-0
08.04.94	Nacional v Colo Colo	2-0
12.04.94	Defensor v Union Espanola	1-1
15.04.94	Nacional v Union Espanola	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	6	4	1	1	11	6	9
Union Espanola	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
Defensor	6	1	3	2	3	5	5
Nacional	6	1	1	4	5	8	3

Group 5
(Bolivia — Venezuela)

23.02.94	Minerven (V) v Maritimo (V)	2-1
23.02.94	Bolivar (B) v The Strongest (B)	0-0
01.03.94	Minerven v Bolivar	1-1
04.03.94	Maritimo v Bolivar	0-2
08.03.94	Minerven v The Strongest	5-0
11.03.94	Maritimo v The Strongest	1-1
16.03.94	The Strongest v Bolivar	0-0
22.03.94	Bolivar v Minerven	4-0
25.03.94	The Strongest v Minerven	7-1
05.04.94	Bolivar v Maritimo	2-1
08.04.94	The Strongest v Maritimo	5-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	6	3	3	0	9	2	9
The Strongest	6	2	3	1	13	7	7
Minerven	6	2	1	3	10	17	5
Maritimo	6	1	1	4	7	13	3

Second Round

1st Leg

14.04.94	Bolivar v The Stongest	2-1
20.04.94	Junior v Colo Colo	1-1
20.04.94	Universitario v Indep Medellin	2-1
20.04.94	Minerven v Emelec	2-0
20.04.94	Barcelona v Olimpia	0-1
21.04.94	Union Espanola v Cruzeiro	1-0
21.04.94	Defensor v Velez Sarsfield	1-1
27.04.94	Palmeiras v Sao Paulo	0-0

● *Sao Paulo qualified as holders*

2nd Leg

24.04.94	The Strongest v Bolivar	0-4
	Bolivar won 6-1 on agg	
27.04.94	Colo Colo v Junior	2-2
	agg: 3-3, Junior won 4-3 on pens	
27.04.94	Indep Medellin v Universitario	2-0
	Indep Medellin won 3-2 on agg	
27.04.94	Emelec v Minerven	3-1
	agg: 3-3, Minerven won 4-0 on pens	
27.04.94	Olimpia v Barcelona	2-1
	Olimpia won 3-1 on agg	
27.04.94	Velez Sarsfield v Defensor	0-0
	agg: 1-1, Velez won 4-3 on pens	
28.04.94	Cruzeiro v Union Espanola	0-0
	Union Espanola won 1-0 on agg	
22.07.94	Sao Paulo v Palmeiras	2-1
	Sao Paulo won 2-1 on agg	

Quarter-finals

1st Leg

27.07.94	Olimpia v Bolivar	1-0
27.07.94	Indep Medellin v Junior	0-2
27.07.94	Minerven v Velez	0-0
29.07.94	Union Espanola v Sao Paulo	1-1

2nd Leg

03.08.94	Bolivar v Olimpia	0-2
	Olimpia won 3-0 on agg	
03.08.94	Junior v Indep Medellin	0-0
	Junior won 2-0 on agg	
03.08.94	Velez v Minerven	2-0
	Velez won 2-0 on agg	
03.08.94	Sao Paulo v Union Espanola	4-3
	Sao Paulo won 5-4 on agg	

Semi-finals

1st Leg

10.08.94	Junior v Velez	2-1
10.08.94	Sao Paulo v Olimpia	2-1

2nd Leg

17.08.94	Velez v Junior	2-1
	agg 3-3, Velez won 5-4 on pens	
17.08.94	Olimpia v Sao Paulo	1-0
	agg: 2-1, Sao Paulo won 4-3 on pens	

Final

1st Leg

24.08.94	Velez Sarsfield v Sao Paulo	1-0

2nd Leg

31.08.94	Sao Paulo v Velez Sarsfield	1-0
	agg 1-1, Velez won 5-3 on pens	

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

WHERE 75 PER CENT IS TOTALLY WRONG

FOREIGNERS as scapegoats. A familiar theme; and not only in football.

Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers Association, has been lamenting their presence in English football. They block the way, he proclaims, to young players. There's too many of them, and too many who are not up to snuff.

Up to a point, Lord Copper, as the Editor said in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*. Where I sympathise with Taylor is over the proliferation of players from the Common Market countries.

As we know, they cannot now be kept out. Indeed, legally they could never be kept out at all. But the wily old Artemio Franchi, when president of UEFA, fought a brilliant, long delaying action. Where I disagree with Taylor is over players from outside the EC — who seem to trouble him more.

Cheapos from Eastern Europe appear to be his nightmare. But he and the PFA must take much of the blame, for imposing such arbitrary criteria.

There has been a variation in what is demanded. Now, a foreign player from outside the EC must have played at least 75 per cent of his national team's games in the previous two years, but a brief reflection should have convinced both PFA and Department of Employment that this is arbitrary in the extreme.

Five live . . . Oleg Salenko celebrates one of his World Cup goals against Cameroon.

Three-quarters of matches played by Malta, Jamaica or Estonia are hardly the equivalent of as many — or far fewer — games played by Brazil, Russia or Argentina. Yet no differentiation is made. Thus we have such contradictory cases as those of Oleg Salenko and Navarro Montoya.

Salenko set a new World Cup record by getting five goals for Russia against Cameroon, but a couple of years or so ago, when Tottenham tried to sign him, they were told that the rules then prevailing, over international appearances, disqualified him.

So Salenko went to Spain, where he seems to have done well. Russian colleagues told me, in the States, that for this reason and that, he would not have been ideal material for England. But five goals in a World Cup are five goals. The Navarro Montoya case is perhaps more frustrating still. The season before last, I heard from an old friend, Oscar Arce, once a player with Villa, a coach at Millwall, Sion of Switzerland, and in the Ivory Coast, who now acts as an agent.

He wanted to place Montoya, the Boca Juniors goalkeeper and one of the best in Argentina, with a British club. No dice. For Montoya, having played five times for Chile before he emigrated, would be quite unable to represent Argentina. No 75 per cent appearances, no deal. For a player of plain international standard.

Very recently, there has been the case of Brad Friedel, second goalkeeper for the US in the World Cup, kept ut by Tony Meola. Newcastle were refused permission to sign him, on the 75 per cent grounds, and have appealed. Before them, Nottingham Forest were keen to sign the big fellow. They, too, were frustrated.

I've never seen Friedel play, and know critics in the States who are not quite sure of him. But if clubs of the stature of Forest and Newcastle both want him, how bad can he be?

In principle, and often in practice, foreign players certainly can be hostile to the native game.

Above all in Italy where the implemented EC ruling, coinciding with the huge wealth of such as Silvio Berlusconi, has led to the monstrous distortions of Milan. To the so-called Turnover, which at various times has condemned such stars as Ruud Gullit (back again) Dejam Savicevic, Jean-Pierre Papin, Florin Raducoiou and Brian Laudrup, fine foreigners all, to the stands rather than the bench.

But even before the ghastly Turnover, Milan were snapping up and then not using such highly-promising strikers as Simone, still with the club, and Agostini, who showed in the Makita tournament at Highbury that he's still a most effective player.

He had just joined Napoli from Ancona. Milan signed both players from Como. Each looked like a future international, and Simone has just about been one. But each had his career badly blighted with Milan.

Simone chose, wrongly in my view, to see it out and stay on. He has had glittering moments, but other things being equal, he should have been the man to solve Italy's problems at centre-forward.

The trouble is, and ever was, when Italian clubs are allowed to sign foreigners, that those who come fill the crucial positions, as strikers or as creative midfielders, eternally barring the way to local talent, at least at the bigger clubs.

Thus it is that when Italy have to pick an Under-21 team, there are pitfully few players available who are first choices in a Serie A side. This is not going to happen in England, because by and large our clubs do not have that kind of money. What I think Gordon Taylor should be pushing for is a less arbitrary criterion for non-EC players. The setting up, perhaps, of a small committee to pass judgement on each individual application.

Then we might avoid such paradoxes as the exclusion of an Oleg Salenko or a Navarro Montoya, while lesser men sneak through the net.

Z-Z-Z — ZAGALO

I AM astonished that Brazil should now bring back Mario Lobo Zagalo *(left)* for yet another spell at the helm of the national team.

He doubtless had much to do with their tactics in America during the World Cup, where he was assisting Carlos Alberto Parreira, now with Valencia.

Surely this was the dullest Brazilian team since 1978, when they so nearly got to the Final despite their faults, and did at least have a bit of invention in midfield.

Is the managerial scene really so barren, so devoid of good coaches who are willing to accept the poisoned chalice that Brazil have to go back to the man who won in 1970?

GODFATHER JACK

JACK WALKER and Blackburn Rovers are another problem. In one sense, theirs is a romantic and beguiling story. A club great in the remote past, very good indeed as recently as the latter 1950s, fallen, like the town, on bad times, only to be rescued by a vastly rich local philanthropist, a steel millionaire anxious to devote his money to his dreams.

So spend, spend, spend has been the order of the day.

Except it's all quite unreal, and potentially damaging to English football. I have every sympathy for the Blackburns of this world, marginalised by brute economic realities, hopelessly unable to compete, as once they did, with the great metropolitan clubs, the Manchester Uniteds *et al*.

But suddenly to revive one of them in so arbitrary a way must be a mixed blessing. For Blackburn are living far above their logical and rational means, the beneficiaries of a Fairy Godfather. They resemble a poor man who has won the Pools, and grown rich by a fluke. In throwing money about as they do, they have distorted the market.

Paying £5million for Chris Sutton was insanity, thrown into still starker relief when Spurs and Alan Sugar paid less than half that for one of the game's best players, Jurgen Klinsmann, then sold the far from famous Vinny Samways to Everton for roughly what they paid!

Money talks . . . Can Jack Waker's millions bring Blackburn success?

Colombian brother . . . Fredy Rincon.

BROTHER FREDY

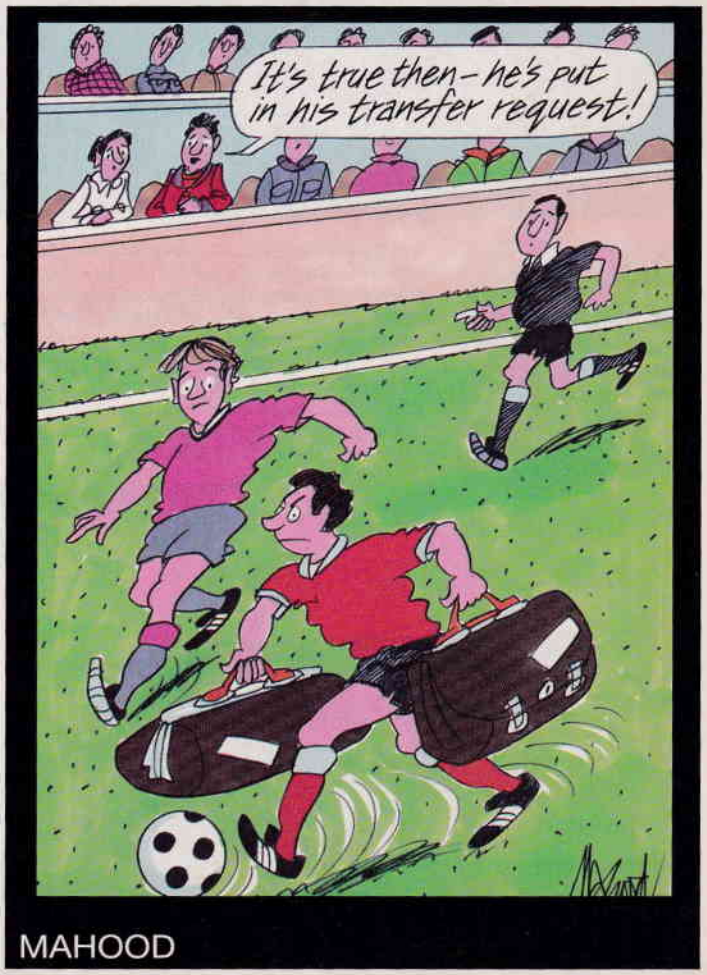
WITHIN a couple of days, I found myself talking recently to two figures from the World Cup.

I did not really expect Colombia's Fredy Rincon, at Highbury for the Makita Tournament Napoli, to enlighten me over why his team laid down and died against the US.

He gave me a strange smile and replied, gnomically, "That day we were not players, we were brothers."

At Leyton Orient, where Brian Roy made his debut for Forest, I asked if he agreed that with Gullit, Holland could have won the World Cup. He did not. Indeed, he brushed the idea brusquely aside, saying he did not like that kind of speculation.

Fair enough, but I still think that with Gullit, Holland could have beaten Brazil.



A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe

MALMO

Name: Malmo Stadion.
Capacity: 26,400 (15,300 seats).
Opened: May 28, 1958, just before the World Cup.
Location: Part of an orderly sports complex on the edge of the large Pildamm Park, about 3km from the city centre.

● Home to Sweden's most successful club, Malmo FF, this is another 1950s period piece, which is rather dominated by its athletics track. Unlike the Maracana, however, Malmo's dated modernism has an appealing innocence, despite a recent £4million refit which included the addition of a slightly clumsy second stand opposite the graceful, shell-like main stand. Sergei Bubka broke the world pole vault record here in 1991, but English and Swedish fans breaking a few beer-tent poles a year later got far more publicity. Now that the European Championship has doubled in size, Malmo will not see its like again.
World Soccer rating: 6 (out of 10)

MARACANA

Name: Officially the Estadio Mario Filho (after the founder of Rio's daily sports paper).
Capacity: 125,000 (but famously held 199,584 ticket-holders and thousands more for the 1950 World Cup's final game).
Opened: June 10, 1950 (a junior game between Rio and Sao Paolo — a youthful Didi scored the first goal).
Location: Next to the Rio Maracana, in the Aldeia Campista district of Rio.

● During the 1950s the Maracana was the world's most glamorous stadium, with room for 155,000 (officially), a dramatic, reinforced concrete cantilevered roof, floodlights, lifts, luxurious facilities and its own ice-cream factory. Sao Paolo were so impressed they built a 100,000 capacity replica — the Morumbi Stadium — in 1960, as did Belo Horizonte and other Brazilian cities. But in truth the Maracana was built cheaply and hastily amid bitter arguments between the Brazilian FA and the Rio municipality (who own it), and was not completely finished until 1965. Now it is an anachronism; patched up, outdated and facing an uncertain future after two fans died and 87 were injured during a Flamengo-Botafogo title match in July 1992. Eight months of extensive repairs followed, but the riches of Croesus (or Dr Joao) will be needed to solve its long-term inadequacies. Ironically, the last mega-crowd the Maracana might ever host could be the record 184,368 who saw a Paul McCartney concert a few years ago. Now there's a limit of only 125,000. Yesterday, all its problems seemed so far away.
World Soccer rating: 5 (out of 10) currently, but 9 for the memory

MONACO

Name: Stade Louis II.
Capacity: 18,500 (17,500 seats).
Opened: January, 1985.

● Is it a stadium? A multi-storey car-park? An office block? A sports centre? Or simply the plaything of Prince Rainier, whose palace looks down upon this stunning £60 million marvel? One third of Monte Carlo's 30,000 population passes through its doors every year, to play squash, go swimming or watch a game of basketball. Another 4,000 or so turn up to watch AS Monaco — a pretty impressive per capita percentage, but still the lowest average in the French First Division. Hence the club regularly admit 2,000 schoolkids for free. If you're passing, the football takes place on the fourth floor, and leave all your preconceptions in the cloakroom.
World Soccer rating: 9 (out of 10)

MOSCOW

Name: Lenin Stadium.
Capacity: 100,360 all-seated.
Opened: 1920 as the International Red Stadium, rebuilt in 1956.
Location: In the 400-acre Luzhniki Park, probably the world's largest sporting complex, on the banks of the Moskva River, a few miles south-west of the Kremlin. Take the brown metro line to Sportivnaya station, or for a marvellous overview go two stops further to the hill-top University and look down on the stadium.

● In a city of 70 stadiums, this immense but unlovely single-tiered bowl is the Mother Russia of them all. Despite the collapse of the Soviet empire, Lenin's name still just about holds good, but although the stadium was tarted up for the 1980 Olympics (with some hideous bronze cladding around the flame holder and four absurdly large floodlight masts), like most once-publicly subsidised buildings in Moscow, it has seen better days. It also has its ghosts, as the scene of Europe's worst-ever football disaster, when up to 340 fans were crushed in a narrow, ice-bound exit corridor near the end of a UEFA Cup game between Spartak and Haarlem, on October 20, 1982. Spartak have made their own exit this year. Unable to afford the rent in this new age of capitalism, they have decamped to share with Moscow Torpedo.
World Soccer rating: 7 (out of 10)

NEXT MONTH

WILL IT BE
ROMARIO?

PERHAPS
HAGI?

POSSIBLY
BARESI?

YOU CAN VOTE FOR THE **1994** ***WORLD SOCCER*** **PLAYER OF THE YEAR** TO SUCCEED THE LIKES OF **PLATINI, GULLIT, ZICO, MARADONA** AND **1993 WINNER, ROBERTO BAGGIO.**

Only in ***WORLD SOCCER***

Full details on how to cast your vote in the November issue of ***WORLD SOCCER***.

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Soccer's dopes – an investigation into the who, what, when, why and how of international football's drug cheats.

PLUS . . . Brian Glanville, Trevor Brooking, Keir Radnedge . . . and ***WORLD SOCCER***'s unique international results service.

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